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# Socialist Worker

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## OVER 1,000 MIGRANTS DROWN IN A WEEK FLEEING PERSECUTION



Migrants look on as bodies are taken from a coastguard ship in Malta after the boat they had been on capsized and hundreds died

# THIS IS RACIST MURDER

by KEN OLENDE

**MORE THAN 1,000 people have drowned in the Mediterranean in the last week while seeking refuge in Europe. The shocking images have outraged millions of people.**

Politicians across the European Union (EU) cry crocodile tears—but their callous immigration policies caused the crisis.

Mohammad, a refugee from Daraya near the Syrian capital Damascus, told Socialist Worker why he had risked his life to make the journey.

“I did it because I had no choice,” he said. “I had to leave my country because of the war.”

“In August 2012 the regime massacred more than 700 people in my home town over four days, including my aunt and her husband. I am

continued on page 4

**REFUGEES  
WELCOME  
HERE**  
**>>Pages 4&5**

### ELECTION

**Tories whip up panic as SNP wins support**

THE TORIES are claiming a Labour government backed by the Scottish National Party (SNP) would be “a match made in hell”.

Yet the SNP’s “end austerity” message is popular.

Glasgow civil service worker Kate said Cameron represented “the politics of fear”.

**>>Page 20**

### STRIKE



**National Gallery strikes score a victory over pay**

STRIKES HAVE forced National Gallery bosses to say they will pay workers the London Living Wage.

The news came as workers began six days of walkouts on Monday of this week against privatisation.

One striker told Socialist Worker, “We are determined to see this through”.

**>>Page 6**

### GREECE

**Protests and shutdowns meet Golden Dawn trial**

ANGRY CROWDS marched on Korydallos prison in Athens on Monday of this week as the trial of the Nazi Golden Dawn party began inside.

Unions called a national four-hour strike.

Some 69 leading Golden Dawn members are on trial.

**>>Page 8**





## THE THINGS THEY SAY

**'Erm. I do know them. I need to check'**

Labour candidate **Ruth Cadbury**'s response when asked what the party's key policies are

**'Blowing billions on vanity projects such as school meals'**

The Daily Mail finds a bizarre reason to attack the Lib Dems

**'It's still a magnet for weirdos and extremists'**

The Sun on why it can't back Ukip

**'Could this surge of nationalism mean Scotland is in danger of becoming another North Korea?'**

Janet Street-Porter worries about SNP growth

**'We haven't been able to win an election for 23 years'**

Ken Clarke whines about the state of the Tory party

**'Men and women do have different brains'**

Chess commentator **Nigel Short** justifies his claim that women are "hard-wired" to be bad at chess



# Murdoch press gloat about shopping their sources

**THE MURDOCH** press took time out from calling migrants cockroaches to gloat over the collapse of a number of trials of journalists.

The Crown Prosecution Service is scrapping most of the planned trials involving journalists accused of payments to public officials.

The Sun newspaper reaction to this latest development in the Operation Elveden saga was a front page splash shrieking "CROWN PERSECUTION SERVICE".

Managing editor Stig Abell tweeted the headline, and dutifully tweeted "48-0" as a scoreline.

If the sources prosecuted were included, the zero would have to be replaced by the number 27.

Readers with short memories may have forgotten the Murdoch press' condemnation of the



Police's use of the Regulation Of Investigative Powers Act (RIPA).

That saw phone providers ordered to give details of people who had been communicating with the Sun.

Journalists were rightly outraged that sources were being exposed and pursued.

Troublemaker readers may not have much truck with the screws and coppers who were handing over the info to the hacks.

But such is the absence of self-awareness that the shopping, prosecution and conviction of more than two dozen of those sources is unworthy of comment by the Murdoch press.

It is as if the people who the Sun persuaded to part with information in exchange for cash don't exist.

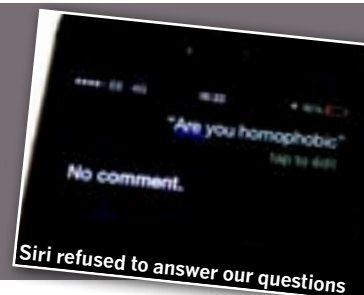
The bribing of officials didn't all happen a long time ago. Some of them were in 2012.

That is over six months after the News of the World newspaper shut down. And during the middle of the Leveson inquiry.

**SIRI**, THE irritating "personal assistant" available on Apple products, has caused offence with an apparently homophobic comment.

The Russian language version of the app was asked how to register a same-sex wedding. It replied, "You are using obscenities."

In 2011, the assistant declined to offer information on abortion clinics.



**VOTERS WALKED** out on David Cameron as the flustered leader tried to defend cuts.

His attempts to win over mobile phone workers with a Q&A session backfired when they subjected him to a 42-minute grilling.

Cameron saw up to 30 of the 200-strong audience walk out on his appearance at O2's offices in Leeds.

## Tory warning—be afraid of Scotland

**THE GENERAL** election campaign has thrown up a surprising fact—ordinary people quite like left wing policies. So the Scottish National Party (SNP) has been attacked for "luring" voters with such policies.

The Times newspaper included some of these under the heading, "SNP entices the English" this week. Policies included moves to block Tory welfare cuts, cutting tuition fees and support for recognising a Palestinian state.

pitch. Cameron claimed an SNP win was a "frightening prospect". Apparently people would be thinking, "Is that bypass going to get built? Will my hospital get the money it needs?"

Because of course fears about services not being funded never come up under the Tories.

Cameron went on, "Would these people care at all about what happens in my life? The answer is no."

Troublemaker would like to point out that this lack of concern for Cameron may not be limited to the SNP.



Cameron and Sturgeon

**THE** panic over the Scottish National Party (SNP) is reaching fever

## Keeping promises in the manifesto

Troublemaker would like to congratulate the Tories.

In a rare occurrence the posho party has fulfilled a manifesto promise.

In fact they have gone so far as to pledge something they have already accomplished.

The Tory election manifesto promised to "upgrade

the A11"—something the party can safely claim to have done already.

The final dualled stretch of the route was opened less than five months ago by Patrick McLoughlin, the transport secretary.

Prime Minister David Cameron wrote an article for the local newspaper celebrating the achievement.

The A11

## Rent a quote Tory doesn't provide quote

**TORY** MP Charlie Elphicke is a man of opinions. On any day he is usually available to share his views on the media. On litter, immigration, Ukip, the BBC, Labour's mugs, Ed Miliband's debate notes, grammar—you name it.

But then last week there was silence.

Nothing on David Cameron's right-to-sell housing plans. Instead an organisation called Million Homes, Million Lives was quoted in the Tory press release.

Oddly, it didn't mention the outfit is run by Natalie Elphicke, Charlie's wife.



# 775

**LIB DEM** membership rose by 775 this year to 45,000. That's 20,000 fewer new members than the party won in 2010. Although it does beg the question—who on earth are the 775 that were persuaded to join the Lib Dems?

## The IMF is worried about your debts

**PEOPLE** IN Britain have more debt than those in many other major developed countries according to the International Monetary Fund.

It's Global Financial Stability Report, no pun intended, said the debt was fuelled by high house prices.

The state of Britain's debt was compared with that of Portugal—which sought emergency funding during the economic crisis.

Meanwhile MoneySuperMarket.com has predicted that 13 million people in Britain will see their debt increase this year.

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# Hillsborough cop admits evidence was 'amended'

by SADIE ROBINSON

**A FORMER** chief superintendent has admitted that police presented a report referring to Liverpool fans as drunk "animals" in the wake of the Hillsborough disaster.

Some 96 Liverpool fans died as a result of a crush at Sheffield's Hillsborough football stadium on 15 April 1989.

Terry Wain was a chief superintendent with South Yorkshire Police (SYP) at the time. He began giving evidence to inquests into their deaths on Monday of this week.

Jonathan Hough QC asked Wain about evidence given by former inspector Clive Davis.

Davis said Wain led a meeting of officers on 17 April.

Hough said Davis described Wain "declaring an intention to place the blame for the disaster on drunken and ticketless Liverpool supporters".

Wain denied that.

## Disaster

Wain was responsible for overseeing the preparation of a SYP submission of evidence to the Taylor inquiry into the disaster.

A draft of the submission was given to SYP solicitors Hammond Suddards before being submitted to the Taylor inquiry.

Wain confirmed that self-written accounts from police had not been gathered by 26 April.

He briefed officers at a meeting at 9am that day and said the aim was to "seek only objective facts for the benefit of the force as a whole".

Under questioning he agreed that the submission included a "defence of senior officers" and involved "some degree of exaggeration".

The report said, "Sergeant Burns described some of the fans as behaving like animals."

Wain agreed that many comments

## FANS ESCAPE the crush during the disaster

stressed the influence of alcohol on the crowd. He agreed that some parts of the report went "further than purely stating fact".

Wain told the court, "All I did was to reflect what was in the statements."

He said he was aware that some statements included criticisms of other officers but could not explain why these did not end up in the submission.

Wain said that he later learned that some evidence was amended "by

another team under the direction of South Yorkshire Police".

The court heard that SYP solicitors vetted and amended officers' accounts and the submission before it was sent to Lord Justice Taylor. Wain said this "didn't cause me any concern".

Wain and other officers met with SYP solicitors at 2.05pm on 26 April.

Officers were given proformas that were later amended.

Wain said he thought they were amended following the meeting with solicitors.

The amendments asked officers to include the mood of the fans, the actions of stewards, radio communications, and their "fears, feelings and observations".

## Behaviour

Wain accepted that there was a concern on behalf of the force to gather evidence about "fans' behaviour".

At the meeting Wain referred to a bundle of evidence.

He said, "We should be able to validate it given time."

Peter Wilcock QC said, "It rather looks from that contribution that you had a conclusion which you expected to get evidence to validate."

Wain denied that.

Wain said "most of" the information gathered went into his report. Wilcock asked, "What didn't?"

Wain replied, "I have no idea." Wilcock said there was no reference to a practice of police blocking the tunnel to pens 3 and 4 at Hillsborough.

The submission given to Lord Justice Taylor did not include information about events after 12 noon on the day of the disaster.

The inquests continue.

## What's your story?

Email with your ideas  
reports@socialistworker.co.uk

## IN BRIEF

### Inquest over inmate death

AN INQUEST has criticised a young offenders institution over an inmate's death.

Greg Revell died in June last year at HMP Glen Parva in Leicestershire.

The court heard he was depressed and had tried to kill himself three months earlier. The coroner criticised the prison for not identifying that he was at risk.

### Detainee dies in Yarl's Wood

A DETAINEE died in the family unit at Yarl's Wood immigration detention centre near Heathrow on Monday.

It is believed that a 33 year old man died from a heart attack. He was detained with his wife and child.

### Benefits stress caused suicide

STRESS ABOUT filling in benefit forms drove unemployed Mark William Jacka to suicide, a coroner has ruled.

Mark was struggling to get his benefits, and had borrowed money from his girlfriend. He was found hanged at his home the day after a trip to the job centre.

### Councils fail disabled people

DISABLED PEOPLE are being left stranded in their own homes, a charity has warned.

The Leonard Cheshire charity has said that two thirds of councils are failing to make homes accessible for disabled people within the one-year legal limit.

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# Migrants attacked in Ukip manifesto

THE RACIST Ukip launched its manifesto on Wednesday of last week. It is full of panic over migrants.

Ukip would impose a five-year ban on immigration by "unskilled workers".

No migrant, or their dependants, would be able to access free non-urgent health care unless they had worked here for five years. They would be cut off from benefits too.

Migrants marrying British citizens would have to somehow prove that they weren't doing so to obtain British residency.

All of this would be overseen by a "Migration Control Commission".

Ukip's "local homes for local people" promise is an attempt to

present migrants as the cause of Britain's housing crisis. Migrants would not be able to access social housing until they had lived and worked in Britain for five years.

This is a joke. Most people—migrant or not—have no access to social housing because there isn't enough of it.

Ukip said, "All local authorities, social landlords and housing associations will be required to register the nationality of their tenants."

Ukip, a party of bankers and millionaires, claims it wants to protect "British workers". In reality it wants to shift the blame for society's problems away from the rich and onto poor migrants.

Nigel Farage launches the manifesto

## IN THIS WEEK

# 1992

### LA uprising over racist police

RIOTS BROKE out in Los Angeles after four police officers got away with beating a black man.

Four cops were acquitted of using excessive force despite video footage showing them beating Rodney King as he lay on the ground.





# Drowning of hundreds is no accident—it's racism

Politicians let 1,300 people die in just one week rather than look 'soft' on immigration, reports Ken Olende

>>continued from page 1

a doctor. The regime targeted me because I treated civilians."

The season when the weather is good enough for boats to risk the crossing has just started. And already this year's deaths count alongside some of the worst maritime disasters in history.

Up to 950 refugees crowded onto an overloaded fishing boat died when it capsized last Saturday. Only 28 people are known to have survived.

More than 400 others died last week. Reports came in of yet another boat sinking on Monday of this week.

Mohammad remembers being packed into a boat with about 220 other people. "It wasn't built to carry that huge number," he said.

## Capsized

"If people had tried to move around it would have capsized. We didn't know if we would die from one moment to the next. All we knew was that no one cared what happened to us.

"Many people didn't have life jackets. There were men, women and small children.

"Many were sea sick and vomiting as the waves were high. When night fell it was very cold and most people didn't have the right clothes—just

## BACK STORY

Recent days have seen a horrific surge in shipwrecks of migrants crossing the Mediterranean

●Three new distress signals were sent on Monday of this week, after two disasters last week

●Thousands of refugees fleeing conflicts in Eritrea and Syria are trying to reach Europe

●EU search and rescue mission Mare Nostrum was axed last year

●Its replacement Triton is much smaller—partly because states such as Britain refuse to fund it

short sleeves and no coats."

Most refugee boats head for the Italian island of Lampedusa, 70 miles off the north African coast.

Mohammad said, "After about 18 hours at sea we were saved by an Italian ship. We were on that for four days. They said they had to stay at sea until they had rescued 1,200 people. It was very crowded. We had to queue for hours to use the toilet."

Italian prime minister Matteo



Mohammad fled Syria in an overcrowded boat

MIGRANTS RESCUED by the Italian coastguard arrive in Palermo, Sicily, earlier this month

Renzi rightly called the deaths part of a "systematic slaughter". But European politicians are scurrying to avoid any blame for it.

David Cameron says it is a tragedy. But his government has pulled Britain out of even the inadequate rescue missions that the European Union (EU) runs.

Home Office minister James Brokenshire argued on Monday that rescuing people

would only

encourage more to travel. This idea was originally put forward by Foreign Office minister Lady Anelay, who last year called the rescues an "unintended 'pull factor'".

Mohammad was shocked that some British politicians don't want refugees to be rescued.

He asked, "If it was their family would their opinion be the same? Would you leave people you loved to die in the middle of the sea?"

The people who he paid treated the refugees very badly.

"It took 17 days to get across the desert in Libya before we came to the sea. It was the worst experience

in my life. It was during Ramadan. We had only one meal a day. If we were lucky we got a glass of water.

"No one could argue. If someone asked for more food they beat him. I witnessed one of them stab one guy in the thigh with sheep shears."

But the traffickers are not the reason people travel. "We left a war," said Mohammad. "People were dying. Are the politicians saying that just because I'm Syrian I don't deserve life?"

Migrant Lives Matter Protest at the EU offices in London Saturday 25 April, 1pm, 32 Smith Square, London SW1P 3EU

## Bigots revel in the slaughter

A poisonous article by Sun columnist Katie Hopkins caused outrage. Under the headline "Rescue boats? I'd use gunships to stop migrants" she wrote, "These migrants are like cockroaches."

Her words were echoed by a prominent member of former Italian prime minister Silvio Berlusconi's Forza

"sink all the boats". The leader of Italy's racist Northern League, Matteo Salvini, called for the navy to blockade Libya to stop refugee boats.

In Britain, the descent into racism between the main parties trying to copy Ukip has created an atmosphere where huge numbers of deaths can be shrugged off.

The Sun's Katie Hopkins

Italy party, Daniela Santanche. She called on the Italian navy to

Eurofighter jet as used to bomb Libya

## Wars created refugee crisis

THE WEST'S wars force people to leave their homes, then its rulers turn them away.

The United Nation's refugee agency UNHCR appealed in December to European Union states to provide homes for 130,000 Syrians displaced by the civil war.

In response, Germany pledged to take 30,000, Sweden 2,700, and the other 26 states just 5,438 between them.

Britain is set to take in only 143. Yet it can afford to spend billions on border controls and brutal immigration detention centres.

Ukip's Nigel Farage argued that the problem in Libya was created by the overthrow of Libyan dictator Colonel Muammar Gaddafi. Some also blame the revolution in Syria for the deadly civil war there.

Gaddafi was certainly no friend of refugees. He had an agreement with the Western powers to stop them sailing.

People were right to rise up against his dictatorship. The chaos in Libya today was caused not by the revolt but the Western military intervention that hijacked it.

PICTURE: PA

## Fortress Europe drives migrants to desperation

THE ITALIAN Navy carried out the previous rescue project, Mare Nostrum, which cost the European Union (EU) £6.5 million a week.

It was cancelled last October because other EU countries were no longer prepared to fund it.

Its replacement, Operation Triton, costs a third of this and only operates within 30 miles of the Italian coast.

Britain's government has refused to take part.

As a gesture the NGO Medecins Sans Frontieres is planning to send its own boat. But it is not as if there are no ships about.

This week Nato and its allies' Joint Warrior exercise is using more than 50 warships off Scotland.

Triton is coordinated by EU borders agency Frontex. Its operations director Klaus Rosler said the first priority would be ensuring effective border control and monitoring criminal networks in North Africa.

The Italian government

Portuguese patrol boat scours the sea

suggests outsourcing the patrols of the Mediterranean to North African countries and returning "rescued" migrants to their country of origin.

Desperate refugees have been driven to make the dangerous sea crossing as alternative routes have been closed down.

The Greek government put a fence along its border with Turkey in 2012. Bulgaria did the same last week.

And Spain has almost sealed the border with its own North African enclaves Ceuta and Melilla.

Socialist Worker  
WHAT WE THINK

## LIVES LOST IN A VICIOUS GAME OF SCAPEGOATING

THE DEATHS of more than 1,300 people in only one week in the Mediterranean Sea has been called a tragedy. It is. But it is not a natural or inevitable one.

The people who died, and the thousands who have drowned before them, are fleeing war, poverty and the violence of counter-revolution.

They are desperate to find somewhere safe to build a future for themselves and their families.

Handwringing politicians such as David Cameron are hypocrites. The media has focused on the possibility that many passengers may have been locked in the hold.

They are keen to blame the deaths on people traffickers who take refugees' money to transport them on unseaworthy ships.

But the traffickers are a symptom of the problem, not its cause. The real culprits are the Western politicians.

They waged the imperialist wars. They have driven the racist anti-immigrant agenda and built up Fortress Europe to bar people from entering.

They made the decision not to fund rescue missions in the

Mediterranean. They made racism mainstream and opened the way for the rise of far right and racist populist parties across Europe.

Some people dismiss Nigel Farage as a fool. But this is a dangerous mistake.

Ukip's rise has pulled politics even further to the right.

Immigration became an election issue because the politicians made it one. The Tories and Ukip have been foul, but Labour has played its part too.

They all want us to believe that we can't cope if we allow migrants in. They say there is not enough to go around.

But there are plenty of resources for council homes, the



The Tories and Ukip have been foul—but Labour has played its part too

told BBC news. And what an atmosphere it is, with all the kitsch of the butchers' apron that is the union jack.

The Tories are certainly hoping it will give them a boost.

There's nothing quite like a royal birth to bring the nation together before the Tories have to face re-election. Except perhaps for a war.

Many ordinary people will see the birth as a harmless distraction from the crap we're taking.

But behind all the pomp lies a brutal society plagued by inequality

NHS and schools—if the richest were not hogging it all.

So when Ed Miliband makes an issue of NHS workers' English, he is helping whip up racism.

When Labour makes controlling immigration one of its five pledges and produces a mug to drive the message home it is joining the racists' game. It's a game to compete with the Tories and Ukip over who is toughest on migrants.

But this game ends with people drowning in their thousands.

Ordinary people have swum out to the wreckage to rescue refugees. They do this out of basic human solidarity—something politicians cannot recognise in their self serving lives of privilege.

The revolutionary Karl Marx wrote that workers have no country. He meant that wherever workers live—whether that's Syria, Eritrea, Britain or Italy—they do not have control.

They do not have common interest with those at the top who run society. Instead he said "workers of the world unite".

Socialist Worker believes that immigration controls are racist and should be abolished. That's why we are proud to say, "Refugees are welcome here."

## A CROWNING INJUSTICE

NA few weeks' time the front pages will be still plastered with pictures of babies. But they will no longer be the ones murdered by immigration controls in the Mediterranean.

Farce is rapidly taking the place of tragedy as Kate Middleton is set to give birth to another royal scrounger.

Queues of royal fanatics are already lining up outside St Mary's Hospital in Paddington, London.

"We just didn't want to miss the atmosphere," one subject

and misery. A third of children in Britain live in poverty—while the new arrival's brother is already a multi-millionaire at nearly two years of age.

The made up royal rituals and traditions are all there to justify that.

And their grand celebration will be to prepare us for when the next generation is reigning over our rotten society.

The only real cause for cheer will come when we rise up and bring it to an end.

## International Socialism

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## ANALYSIS

ALEX CALLINICOS



## Economy can't crawl its way out of crisis

**CHRISTINE LAGARDE** is the managing director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which has been meeting in Washington. She has been reminding us that she's also a French Tory politician by praising George Osborne's management of the British economy and demanding Greece bring the "reforms" demanded by its creditors to "fruition".

We shouldn't forget that Lagarde's two immediate predecessors, Rodrigo Rato and Dominique Strauss-Kahn, are experiencing close brushes with the law.

She herself is being investigated for allegedly abusing her power as French finance minister in favour of a big donor to Nicolas Sarkozy's 2007 presidential campaign.

The IMF is thus an apt symbol for Western capitalism, which dictates to the world but is awash with sleaze. It generally acts as a booster for neoliberalism. But since the financial crash of 2007-8 it has had to acknowledge that all is not well with the world economy.

So while Lagarde was swanking around, the IMF issued its latest six-monthly World Economic Outlook. It included a study that suggests that the economic and financial crisis has done permanent damage to global growth.

The study traces the growth of potential output, by which is meant the level of output that can be achieved without causing a rise in the rate of inflation.

It predicts that in the advanced economies the growth of potential output would barely rise from an average rate of 1.3 percent a year in 2008-14 to 1.6 percent in 2015-20. This is way below the pre-crisis rate of 2.25 percent in 2001-7.

The IMF also predicts that the "emerging market" economies—the likes of China, India and Brazil—will slow down. Their rate of growth of potential output will fall from 6.5 percent in 2008-14 to 5.2 percent in 2015-20.

These figures don't look so bad. But if the IMF is right, growth in the rich countries is going to continue, as Marxist blogger Michael Roberts puts it, to "crawl" at levels little higher than those in the period including the Great Recession of 2008-9.

### Debate

There is a debate among mainstream economists about why this is happening. Lawrence Summers, ex-US treasury secretary and president Barack Obama's chief economic adviser has revived the thesis of "secular stagnation" first put forward by followers of John Maynard Keynes during the 1930s.

He argues that capitalism is suffering from a shortage of effective demand that condemns it to slow growth. His remedy is less economic inequality and more public investment.

The left liberal economist James Galbraith, who is close to the Syriza government in Greece, argues that the source of the problem lies much deeper, in such factors as the decline of US military power and the end of cheap oil.

Other economists see the causes of secular stagnation in things as various as a decline in technological innovation and the ageing of Western populations.

What is interesting about this debate is that it shows that even a citadel of neoliberalism such as the IMF now acknowledges that capitalism is badly broken. Its own remedy is predictable—yet more free-market "reforms" of the kind Lagarde is demanding from Greece. In one sense this diagnosis may hit close to the truth. "Reform" these days comes down to different ways of weakening organised labour, making it harder for workers to resist greater exploitation.

This chimes with the explanation for slow growth offered by Marxists such as Roberts. This is that underlying the crash and the slump was a long-term decline in profitability that affects all the major capitalist economies.

The bosses have used the crisis to squeeze workers harder. But this hasn't pushed profits up enough for them to be confident about investing. The IMF calculates that private investment in the advanced economies declined by 25 percent in 2008-14 compared to forecasts made in early 2007.

Rather than undertake productive investments, the corporations are shoving money into the financial markets. Stock-market bubbles are busily inflating all over the world—most notably in China. Little wonder that a veteran neoliberal like Summers is looking to the state for salvation. But he shouldn't hold his breath.

# Gallery strikers win Living Wage—but fight continues

By ANNETTE MACKIN

**NATIONAL Gallery bosses have been forced to say they will pay staff the London Living Wage. The gallery was the only national museum or gallery in London not to pay it.**

The news came as workers began six days of strikes from Monday to Friday of this week and on Monday of next week. They have already struck for 18 days this year.

This is a victory for the workers—and has helped boost morale.

Bosses want to privatise 400 out of 600 jobs at the gallery. They have been refusing to discuss alternatives with the workers' PCS union in the hope of dragging out the dispute. But they have only made workers' even angrier.

One striker told Socialist Worker, "We are determined to see this through. The longer it goes on the stronger the belief is to continue."

On Monday's picket line a supporter told strikers they had cancelled their membership at the gallery in disgust at the attacks on workers.

### Fantastic

"It's fantastic that it has reached wider into people's consciousness," said a striker.

"Gallery membership is quite new and so for people to be cancelling already shows how angry people are—it will hit management hard."

Bosses plan to put services out to tender just two days before the general election. PCS is calling for a moratorium to halt the plans.

It has also launched an open letter for supporters to sign to tell gallery director



### HOW TO HELP

● Take part in the national collection day on Friday of this week or donate to sort code 08/60/01 and account no: 20169002  
Cheques to PCS Culture Media and Sport Association, c/o PCS North West Region, Jack Jones House, 1 Islington, Liverpool L3 8EG

● Sign the open letter to the National Gallery director [bit.ly/1GavIUY](http://bit.ly/1GavIUY)

Nicholas Penny to delay the plans.

Workers say that if the privatisation plans are not halted there will be an escalation of strikes after the election.

On Friday of this week they are organising a national day of collections for the

**VICTIMISED PCS union rep Candy Udwin on the picket line with strikers this Monday**

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

strike fund. They are also urging people to invite strikers to union and activist meetings.

And the strikers are planning a social in London on Friday of this week as a thank you for the solidarity they have received in their fight so far.

### Solidarity

A striker told Socialist Worker, "The solidarity has been fantastic. Anyone I speak to is really positive about action being taken in the run up to the election."

Sandy Nicoll, branch secretary of Unison at Soas university in nearby central London, visited workers on their picket on Monday.

He said workers and

students there would be holding a mass collection for the strike on Friday.

He said, "Your battle is a really important one. Ahead of the election it puts all the politicians on the spot."

The victory over the London Living Wage has to be built on.

Bosses have not yet guaranteed it for new starters, so the pressure needs to be kept up.

Momentum has to be sustained to beat back the privatisation plans—and win the reinstatement of suspended union rep Candy Udwin.



### Got a story?

Email ideas to [reports@socialistworker.co.uk](mailto:reports@socialistworker.co.uk)

## Peer escapes trial over child abuse

**ALISON Saunders, the director of public prosecutions (DPP) has concluded that that it was not in the public interest to prosecute the Labour peer Lord Janner. He could have been charged with 22 offences against nine victims at children's care homes in Leicestershire.**

There was enough evidence to charge with but the DPP decided Janner's dementia was too severe for a trial to take place. He was diagnosed with dementia in 2009.

Westminster attendance records show Janner



Lord Janner

attended the House of Lords almost daily and claimed more than £100,000 in expenses in the four years after he was diagnosed with the disease.

He only stopped attending—and claiming up to £300 a day—when police raided his house in 2013.

He took a formal leave of absence last October. The peer is considered incapable of making a plea in the abuse case but is capable enough to hang onto his seat in the Lords.

Simon Basketter

### BACK STORY

**Labour Peer Lord Janner was accused of 22 offences against nine victims from the 1960s to the 1980s at children's care homes in Leicestershire**

● Janner was a Labour MP in Leicester from 1970 to 1997

● He was first accused of child abuse during the trial of Frank Beck in 1991

● Beck was a director of a children's care home in Leicester, convicted of child abuse in 1991

● Janner was investigated over the claims twice more in 2002 and 2006



# TUSC taps into anger at main parties' austerity

by NICK CLARK

**PARLIAMENTARY candidates for the Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition (TUSC) are building campaigns that are rooted in their communities—and based on fighting austerity.**

In Tottenham, north London, TUSC candidate Jenny Sutton has used her campaign to fight the effects of the housing crisis.

She told Socialist Worker, "Housing is a huge issue. The difference between when I stood in 2010 and now is incredible.

"Places that used to have one door bell now have two. Some people are trying to rent out sheds in their back garden for families to live in."

Jenny pinned the blame for rising rents and house prices in Tottenham on the local Labour-run Haringey council.

"The council's strategy for years has been to attract investment from businesses," she said.

"They're openly saying that they want to change the 'demographic mix' of Haringey to do that.

"That means getting rich people to live here—and pushing poor people out."

Jenny is campaigning for rent controls and affordable housing for all in Tottenham—and is attracting new supporters.

Esther is one of them. She told Socialist Worker, "Finding a place to live in London is very difficult.

"If you have children you have to find a place for them to go to school.

"Everyone is crying out for them to keep the rent down so they can afford the housing. So when they see Jenny wants rent controls they say they'll vote for her."

## Racism

In the Sheffield constituency of Brightside and Hillsborough, TUSC candidate Maxine Bowler is campaigning against racism and the scapegoating of migrants.

She told Socialist Worker, "I spoke at a hustings organised by the Campaign to Defend Asylum Seekers and other organisations representing asylum and migrant groups.

"The others on the platform all agreed with immigration controls.

"I was the only one arguing that migrants aren't the problem".

Maxine said many people were interested in TUSC after seeing its party political broadcast, which aired on Friday of last week.

She said, "Going door to door on Sunday people said they had seen the broadcast and they were very impressed."

Other candidates had a similar experience. Lynne Chamberlain, TUSC candidate for Greenwich



**TUSC CANDIDATE Jenny Sutton with sixth form students outside an election hustings in Tottenham, north London, last week**

and Woolwich, south London, told Socialist Worker, "One woman who works in Lidl told me she has worked there for nine years and is only on £10 an hour.

"She said she wanted to join the TUSC campaign after seeing the broadcast".

The pressure is on to vote Labour to get rid of the Tories. Yet many TUSC supporters are people looking for an alternative.

In Tottenham that anger has developed into a real campaign that is winning support.

Jenny said, "We've got a Labour council implementing Tory austerity.

"A lot of people are saying they're not going to vote or they're going to vote for an alternative.

"Our vote will be squeezed. But if anyone's going to beat Labour it won't be the Tories—it will be us".



**On other pages...**

The Labour Party and socialism  
>>Pages 14&15

## NHS

# £35 million for health bosses

**TOP NHS bosses grabbed £35 million in pay rises during the last year while most workers' pay was frozen.**

Some top NHS executives raked in more than £1 million, while directors in hospitals deemed badly performing took up to £5,000 a day.

The figures were revealed by the Daily Mail newspaper. The NHS will not release its annual financial report until after the general election—where health is a major battleground.

Labour promises to get rid of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, which handed more power to private companies.

The Tories now promise to stump up the £8 billion that

**NHS boss Simon Stevens said is needed. This is part of the "Stevens plan" for more privatisation.**

And the Tories still demand £20 billion in "efficiency savings".

The real alternative lies in workers and patients fighting to defend the health service.

Both Tories and Labour say they will attack NHS workers' unsocial hours pay if a review body recommends this in June.

Unison union general secretary Dave Prentis pledged to fight whichever government attacks unsocial hours.

It's time to prepare for that fight now.

Tomáš Tengely-Evans

## Meet a TUSC candidate

### Mev Akram Doncaster Central

THE TRADE Unionist and Socialist Coalition (TUSC) is standing parliamentary candidates across Britain.

Mev Akram is the TUSC candidate for Doncaster Central.

She told Socialist Worker, "Our campaign is getting quite a positive response. People are fed up in Doncaster.

"We're speaking to nurses who are fed up about the attacks on the NHS. And we're speaking to people who are fed up with what the council is doing.

"The council has just built



**Mev Akram**

a big new civic building in the town centre, while there are people who have to rely on food banks.

"They're closing three food banks because they say they can't afford them any more."

Mev said that there has been resistance too.

"In Doncaster we had the Care UK strike," she said.

"People are still angry about what happened, and the privatisation of care homes.

"There's the scapegoating of migrants as well. We had a massive Stand up to Ukip demonstration in Doncaster last year."

Mev explained that it's important to vote for TUSC, despite pressure to vote Labour to keep the Tories out.

She said, "All the other parties aren't for the 99 percent.

"If you agree with TUSC, then you should vote for TUSC.

"We don't just want someone who's the least worse, or the lesser evil. We need to vote for a real alternative".



## GREECE IN BRIEF

## Joint training with US military

MAJOR JOINT military exercises between Greece, the US and Israel began in the Aegean Sea on Monday of this week.

The sea separates Greece and most of Turkey.

The military exercises follow a £369 million contract with arms manufacturer Lockheed Martin for upgrading military planes.

This is more than twice the estimated cost of humanitarian measures agreed in Greece's parliament last month.

The deal had been pushed by defence minister Panos Kammenos, leader of Syriza's hard right coalition partner the Independent Greeks.

## Cops raid student occupation

POLICE ENDED an Athens University student occupation on Friday morning of last week. They arrested all 14 students inside.

While small scale, the raid marked an important shift. Police have generally not

## Riot cops outside Athens University

entered university premises since the fall of the dictatorship in 1974.

It followed right wing pressure over Syriza's ability to maintain "order".

The occupation was called in support of anarchist prisoners, and had lasted for more than two weeks.

## March against new gold mine

THOUSANDS MARCHED in central Athens on Thursday of last week against the planned opening of the Skouries gold mine in Halkidiki in northern Greece.

They included supporters of the anti-capitalist left coalition Antarsya.

A demonstration in favour of the mine also took place. It was instigated by the bosses.

The mine would be an environmental disaster and faces wide opposition.

But Syriza is under pressure to show it isn't blocking "investment" in Greece.

## Protests and shutdowns meet Golden Dawn trial

by DAVE SEWELL

**ANGRY CROWDS** marched on Korydallos prison in Athens on Monday of this week as the trial of the Nazi Golden Dawn party began inside.

Thousands of workers and large numbers of migrants took part. Trade unions, including public sector federation ADEDY, called a national four-hour strike and the local authority held a shutdown.

"It was a massive demonstration," said Stelios Michaelides from Socialist Worker's sister paper Workers' Solidarity.

"People called for jailing the Nazis and legalising the migrants."

A march led by ADEDY and anti-fascist organisation Keerfa converged outside with marches led by the Communist Party and the ruling radical left party Syriza.

Some 69 leading Golden Dawn members are on trial.

The trial covers anti-fascist rapper Pavlos Fyssas' murder in September 2013, and assaults on Communist Party trade unionists a few days earlier and Egyptian fishermen in 2012.

## Murder

The court will also crucially consider more than 100 attacks to decide if Golden Dawn is a criminal organisation. This includes the 2013 murder of Pakistani worker Shehzad Luqman.

Conviction would mean long sentences for its leaders.

Socialist lawyer Thanassis Kampagiannis is representing the Egyptian fishermen.

He told Socialist Worker, "A guilty verdict would be a vindication for those of us who have argued for 20 years that Golden Dawn is not a legitimate political party but a Nazi gang."

"It will bring justice to its victims. But it's also about the political impact—Golden Dawn is still trying to create a political space for itself."

It took strikes and mass protests after Pavlos's murder to force the authorities to move against Golden Dawn.

The trial faced lengthy delays, and much about it remains highly contested.

For instance, anti-fascists and Korydallos local authorities want it relocated to central Athens from the suburban jail that's less accessible to protesters and the media.

The law used against Golden Dawn includes terror legislation that anti-fascist lawyers argue should be repealed.

And they are striving to highlight Golden Dawn's links to the state.

Thanassis explained, "The defendants include one police officer and two people from the



ANTI-FASCISTS MARCH on the prison where the Nazi Golden Dawn is on trial

PICTURE: WORKERS' SOLIDARITY

armed forces. But it was originally to include many more.

"The murder of Pavlos Fyssas took place in front of at least ten cops who did nothing."

"So there has been an effort to limit exposure of the collusion between the state and Golden Dawn."

## Movement

"Strikes and protests are very important. There was always a fear that after such a long wait the movement would leave this to the government."

"Syriza's leadership has a mostly unspoken strategy of ignoring Golden Dawn so it can divide the votes of the right. But you can't ignore a Nazi threat."

"The government has put the army and the police under the control of right wing ministers, who want to conciliate the repressive 'deep state' with the Nazis."

"The anti-fascist movement has to challenge this and actively break those links."

Small groups of Nazis attacked some protesters and witnesses on their way to the court, including two friends of Pavlos.

The trial is expected to take more than a year.

As judges announced that it would resume on 7 May, speakers at the rally outside announced that so would the shutdowns and protests.

## Bosses demand Syriza makes more 'reforms'

EUROPE'S RULERS are continuing to blackmail Greece's Syriza-led government in the latest round of "crunch" talks two months after forcing it into a humiliating compromise.

They don't want to release £5.2 billion in bailout funds until they're satisfied Greece is willing to push through more attacks on workers.

A meeting of eurozone deputy finance ministers on Wednesday of this week was supposed to be a deadline for a new reform plan. Finance chiefs plan talks on Friday.

But bigger deadlines are looming. Greece is due to pay £700 million to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in May.

And in July and August the European Central Bank (ECB) will demand almost £5 billion.

Syriza vested much hope in finding allies against the powerful German government—from the ECB and IMF chiefs to France and Italy's Labour-type austerity

## ECB chief Mario Draghi

governments.

But they are united in calling for Greece to hurry up with neoliberal reform.

Syriza has ruled out defaulting on the debt, which was racked up by bailing out the bankers who gambled on Greece's economy and lost.

But the alternative may be defaulting on its campaign promises, or even on public sector workers' wages, as it struggles to pay everyone with nothing.



## Support Ponty goes to Pride

WE ARE writing to you on behalf of the NEW College (Pontefract) feminism club.

Many of us have seen the film *Pride* and our college is located in what was the heart of the mining community before Tories closed the mines.

Our goal is to raise enough money to fund a coach trip to London Pride 2015.

So far the lads in our group have volunteered to be sponsored to walk a mile in high heels.

The original Lesbian and Gays Support the Miners group has pledged £50 towards our coach costs.

We collected £336 at the recent NUT teachers' union conference.

But as sixth form students we are finding it hard to raise enough funds.

We know you have a deep connection with the LGBTQIA+ movements.

And we as young people want to keep the memory of the link between these movements and the 1984/85 miners' strike alive.

The local NUT association has agreed to help us manage our finances for this project.

Cheques can be made out to Wakefield & District NUT and sent to NUT office, c/o Snapethorpe Primary School, St George's Rd, Lupset, Wakefield WF2 8AA.

Or email us at [rosajohnstonkincaid@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rosajohnstonkincaid@yahoo.co.uk).

Yours in solidarity.

**Rosa and Soraya and all at  
NEW College Feminism  
West Yorkshire**

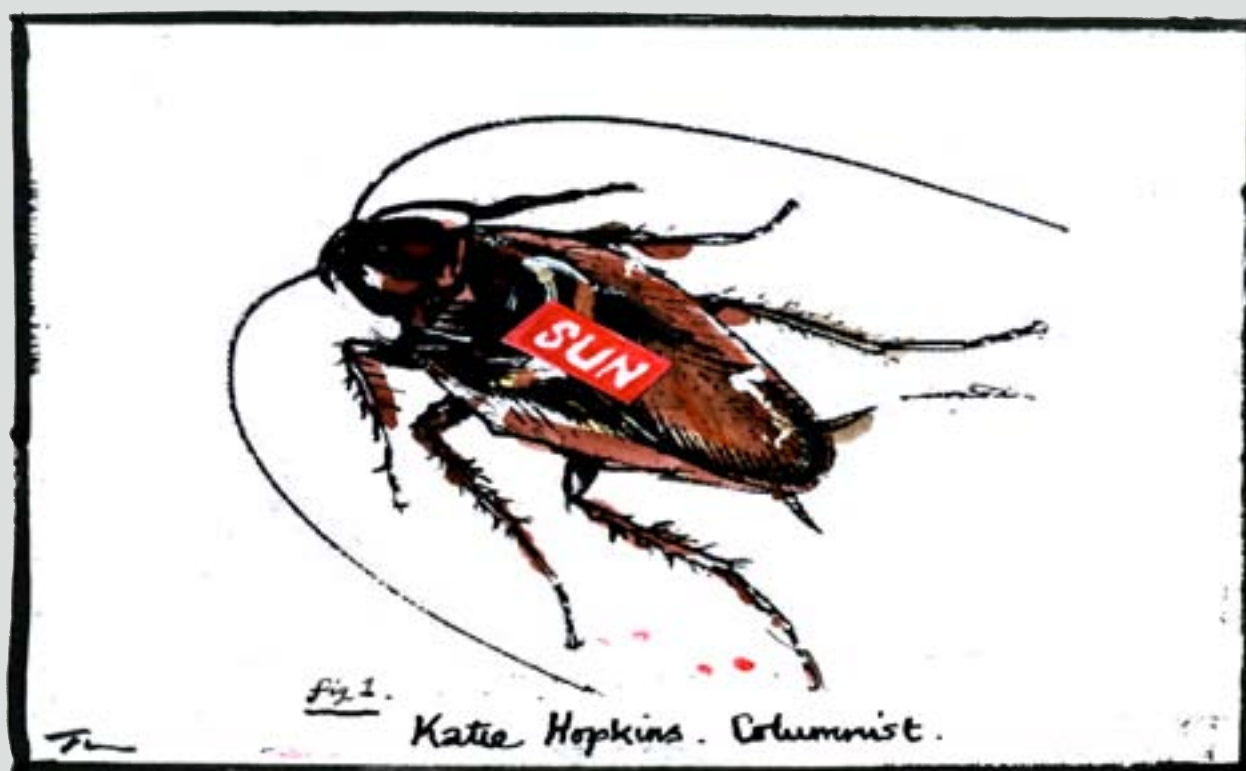


ILLUSTRATION: TIM SANDERS

Just a thought...

## Boycott the Tory touts?

HOW ABOUT a front page calling for a boycott of Tory-touting businesses that are trying to tell us how to vote in the mainstream press?

**Graham Fudger**  
Northants

## People glad to hear of TUSC

I campaigned in Thornton Heath alongside other Socialist Workers Party members to make people aware of an alternative vote in the elections—Glen Hart of TUSC.

The public was interested in who he is and what TUSC is about. They were glad to hear that a local man was standing up for the "little people".

**Juliet Adu-Gyamfi**  
South London

## What about trains, Ukip?

UKIP HAS missed a trick in appealing to its core vote. There's nothing in their manifesto about making the trains run on time!

**John Hein**  
Edinburgh

## Starkey attack is a new low

HISTORIAN David Starkey has dismissed those who have fought institutional racism as "assuming the status of victims".

He attacked Doreen Lawrence, who fought with dignity and courage to get justice for her son Stephen, who was killed by racist thugs in 1993.

This is the opposite of "assuming the status of a victim".

**Sasha Simic**  
East London

## US polls are a family affair

I READ with interest that Hillary Clinton is to stand in the US presidential elections.

It could be said that a series of family members standing since 1979 has duplicated policies that have been around since the 1970s.

The media will have us believe we are represented by a diverse political society.

In reality they are just one big happy family.

**Graham Manley**  
Liverpool

# Demand justice for the 56, investigate the Bradford fire

THE FIRE at Bradford City Football Club's Valley Parade ground in May 1985 was a truly horrific and preventable disaster.

Bradford had just won the old third division championship and 11,000 people were in the ground to see them get the trophy.

But as the game progressed fire ripped through the old wooden stand and killed 56 people.

An inquiry led by Mr Justice Oliver Popplewell reported that the fire was an accident waiting to happen.

The ground had no safety certificate. The Health and Safety Executive (twice) and Bradford Council had written to the club warning of the dangerous nature

of the stand and that it was a potential fire hazard.

Newspapers found underneath the stand were dated from up to 18 years earlier.

The dried paper acted as perfect tinder for the fire.

Both organisations emphasised that proper escape routes had to be in place.

Yet on the day many fans died because gates were closed and padlocked.

Popplewell noted all these issues but praised the Bradford board for their conduct. He noted they were struggling financially.

But the financial pressures on a club who, two years earlier, were on the brink of liquidation perhaps

point to another, darker explanation for the fire.

Evidence gathered by survivor Martin Fletcher suggests that Bradford's owner at the time, Stafford Heginbotham, had seen eight fires at his businesses in the previous 18 years.

These had led to huge insurance pay outs.

Fire experts suggest this level of coincidence is without precedence.

The case for a new inquiry is overwhelming.

These new claims must be investigated and we must demand justice for the Bradford 56.

**Michael Lavalette**

Author of *Capitalism and Sport: people, politics, protest and play*

## Don't be fooled by lies that blame immigrants

IT'S DEEPLY disconcerting the way Ukip's bigotry and intolerance has become part of the mainstream political landscape.

This has been assisted by David Cameron and George Osborne's appeal to national "unity" and anti-immigrant rhetoric.

The Tories claim to represent all through the implausible cliché, "We're all in it together".

This is a squalid attempt to displace class antagonisms onto immigrants.

Immigrants are scapegoated as the primary source of problems such as a shortage of homes and jobs or inadequate public services.

The ultimate responsibility for problems in society lies with the large banks who were generously bailed out with enormous sums of taxpayers' money.

As your front page declared, "Don't get fleeced by the Tories" (Socialist Worker, 11 April).

**Tom Davis**  
East London

## Teachers are right to strike, Fiona Millar

EDUCATION campaigner and journalist Fiona Millar last week wrote an article opposing teachers' strikes.

This followed a decision at the NUT union's annual conference to ballot for strikes if huge planned cuts to education funding are not withdrawn.

I understand Fiona's point that strikes can divide people. And of course strikes can be difficult for parents.

But the problem teachers face is that no one is listening to our

### Strikes show workers' power

concerns. All the main parties, including Labour, are locked into a version of education that is subordinated to the logic of the market.

Unless this logic is broken, strikes will

continue. Fiona is right to say we need a united campaign, involving parents, governors, teachers and others, against austerity—but where is it?

In 1963 there was such a campaign—the National Campaign for Education (NCE). Unfortunately attempts to create a new NCE last year failed to do so.

Maybe after the election we could try again. Our children need a better education system.

**Alasdair Smith**  
North London





**T**HE SCOTTISH National Party (SNP) hopes to make gains in May's general election. In Dundee, where the SNP has majority control of the council, it is set to win both MPs.

The SNP is benefiting from growing anger at the Labour Party.

Increasing inequality, privatisation, illegal wars, racism and continuing Tory anti-union laws under New Labour corroded its support.

A deep row between Labour's Westminster and Scottish leaders last week revealed that Labour will continue Tory austerity in Scotland.

And for many, Labour's alliance with the Tories and the British ruling class against independence last year was the last straw. It now faces a near wipeout of its MPs in Scotland.

The SNP has leaned left and hopes to pick up votes from former Labour supporters. But its record shows it can't be trusted to stand up for working class people.

Dundee, like every working class area in Britain, has been ravaged by austerity. It has had the highest level of welfare sanctions in Scotland and food banks are rife.

The SNP has majority control of the council, both of the city's MSPs and one of the two MPs.

Mick Tunstall a campaigner with Dundee Against Welfare Sanctions told Socialist Worker about the

**DUNDEE EAST MSP and Scottish health minister Shona Robison (above), regeneration on Dundee Waterfront (top), porters on strike at two Dundee hospitals (right)**

impact of benefit sanctions.

"People don't know they have been sanctioned until they discover there is no money in their account," he said. "Many have no idea why they have been sanctioned.

"For the first two weeks people get nothing and then only get 40 percent of their benefits."

Sanctions have pushed more people to use food banks, run by the city's churches and mosques. The numbers visiting with children during school holidays has risen sharply.

Community worker Liz explained, "Families are so reliant on free school meals to feed their families that school holidays create a crisis.

"It's so bad that the council has

produced a leaflet showing where people can get a free meal each day of the week."

The SNP has done little to mitigate the worse effects of austerity. There is less of a novelty factor about the party for people who have experienced having the SNP in political control of the city.

"I don't trust them as far as I could throw them," Ashley McDonald told Socialist Worker. "The SNP is shutting down my son's school to save £2 million a year."

Ashley is part of a campaign of parents, pupils and local residents fighting the closure of Menzieshill High School. It is in a deprived area of the city.

The SNP voted through swingeing council cuts of more than £33 million over the next few years. This includes plans to close the school and force students to attend another miles from where they live.

### Shocked

Ashley was shocked at the attitude of local SNP councillor and Dundee lord provost Bob Duncan when she raised the closure with him. She said Duncan seemed more interested in the fate of big business.

Ashley has more reason than most to be angry at the SNP. Her husband is currently on indefinite strike with porters at Dundee's Ninewells and Royal Victoria hospitals.

The porters are among the lowest paid workers in the NHS. They are demanding NHS Tayside pay them the same wages as most of Scotland's other porters.

NHS bosses refused. Instead they tried, and failed, to use Tory anti-union laws to undermine the workers' action.

Responsibility for health is devolved in Scotland and lies with the SNP government.

Strikers don't hold local Dundee East SNP MSP Shona Robison, also Scottish health minister, in very high regard.

Striker Vince told Socialist Worker, "We're very disappointed at the lack of support from Shona Robison. We expected she'd want to help working class people. It seems she is only interested in votes."



Disillusionment with Labour has seen the Scottish National Party capture the hopes of those radicalised by the independence vote. But a closer look at councils it runs should be a warning, as Raymie Kiernan found in Dundee

The experience of the dispute has left a bitter taste in strikers' mouths. Another striker, Ross, simply said, "I don't trust politicians." He had a simple message for Robison—"You're the health minister, can you get this sorted please?"

The dispute puts the SNP in a tight spot. To settle the workers' claim would potentially open the door to

further claims from low paid public sector workers. But to refuse to do so marks it out as no different to all the other main parties.

The SNP has some policies that mark it out from the Tories and Labour—such as its promise to scrap the Trident nuclear missiles system.

But its powerful business friends would desert it if it dared implement real change.

The Dundee Waterfront development is a case in point. This 30-year development project covers five miles along the River Tay and is worth an eye-watering £1 billion.

Dundee Council is heavily involved with the project.

In August 2013 its policy and resources committee unanimously passed a motion to "support the campaign by trade unions against the operation of blacklists against trade unionists". The motion was proposed by Labour councillor Richard McCready.



**Families here are so reliant on free school meals that the school holidays cause a crisis**

Community worker Liz

saying one thing but doing another," said Stewart.

"We're going to need more protests. The council isn't protecting workers in Dundee from these blacklists."

Francie said the betrayal was another reason why ordinary people need a political alternative.

"We've had the two main parties for so long," he said. "But the referendum changed politics—not just here but throughout Britain. Now people want change and they've had enough."

During last year's independence referendum Dundee became known as Yes City. It delivered the highest vote for independence with 57 percent.

The city used to be a Labour stronghold. But the independence campaign transformed the atmosphere as people felt they had a chance to win real change.

### Better

It galvanised thousands of people into political activity—and they deserve something better than a choice of SNP cuts or Labour cuts.

The Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition (TUSC) is standing in both of the Dundee seats. Carlo Morelli, standing in Dundee East, is a leading trade unionist and anti-racist campaigner in the city.

His UCU union is preparing for a strike at Dundee University against job losses later this month. Carlo explained, "This city is a microcosm of the impact of austerity and the resistance to it."

"Sanctions rip the heart out of communities and food banks flourish. Yet the all-out strike by Dundee hospital workers shows that people aren't prepared to put up with it any more."

"There's a sea-change taking place in working class areas in Dundee."

"The collapse in support for Labour shows that it is no longer seen as a mechanism to stop the cuts. And it's clear that the SNP cannot be trusted either."

"TUSC provides the only political alternative to austerity in Dundee."

Workers' names have been changed

## New politics, same old cuts?

**S**UPPORT FOR the Scottish National Party (SNP) has mushroomed since last year's independence referendum.

But it has been cultivating an image as the real social democratic party in Scotland for much longer.

Tapping disillusion with Labour saw the SNP form a minority Scottish government in 2007. The SNP and the Tories both agreed on the government's 2007 budget, raising questions about the SNP's radical image.

That budget saw cash spent to make sure business rates went down—hitting local authority services.

The SNP went on to win an absolute majority in the Scottish parliament in 2011.

The party's leadership realises that many working class people saw independence as a starting point to bring real change. That's why it says it will "end austerity".

It offers itself as a break from the depressing world of

mainstream politics where party leaders shore up business interests.

But its record in government and in local authorities tells an all too familiar story.

Between 2010/11 and 2013/14 the Scottish government cut funding for councils in real terms by 8.5 percent.

The SNP has majority control of five local councils in Scotland. Public auditors' reports reveal the party's success in ramming through austerity.

In one council, Perth and Kinross, the auditor praised the SNP's "strong track record" in making cuts.

It noted that axing further services will be "more challenging in future years" given the 6 percent cut in staff since 2009.

In North Ayrshire the latest report shows a £4.5 million increase in reserves from the "early delivery of efficiency changes" and underspending on services.

This was achieved through "pay restraint" for staff, among other things.



SNP leader Nicola Sturgeon



## WHAT WE STAND FOR

These are the core politics of the Socialist Workers Party.

### INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION

Under capitalism workers' labour creates all profit. A socialist society can only be constructed when the working class seizes control of the means of production and democratically plans how they are used.

### REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be patched up or reformed as the established Labour and trade union leaders say.

It has to be overthrown. Capitalism systematically degrades the natural world. Ending environmental crisis means creating a new society.

### THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary cannot be taken over and used by the working class. They grew up under capitalism and are designed to protect the ruling class against the workers.

The working class needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state based upon councils of workers' delegates and a workers' militia.

At most parliamentary activity can be used to make propaganda against the present system.

Only the mass action of the workers themselves can destroy the system.

### INTERNATIONALISM

The struggle for socialism is part of a worldwide struggle. We campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries.

We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against those from other countries.

We oppose racism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls.

We support the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise their own defence. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country.

In Russia the result was state capitalism, not socialism. In Eastern Europe and China a similar system was later established by Stalinist parties. We support the struggle of workers in these countries against both private and state capitalism.

We are for real social, economic and political equality of women. We are for an end to all forms of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

We defend the right of believers to practise their religion without state interference.

### THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party.

Such a party can only be built by activity in the mass organisations of the working class.

We have to prove in practice to other workers that reformist leaders and reformist ideas are opposed to their own interests. We have to build a rank and file movement within the unions.

To join us, turn to page 16 or go to [www.swp.org.uk](http://www.swp.org.uk) or phone 020 7819 1170 for more information

## { SOCIALIST WORKER } BRANCH MEETINGS

Weekly meetings to discuss political issues and our local interventions. All welcome.

### ABERDEEN

#### How radical are the Greens?

Thu 30 Apr, 7pm,  
The Snug, Ma Cameron's,  
6-8 Little Belmont St,  
AB10 1JG

### BARNSELEY

#### Blame bankers not migrants—why does the Labour Party always bottle it on immigration?

Thu 30 Apr, 6.30pm,  
YMCA, Blucher St,  
S70 1AP

### BOLTON

#### Why are there so many wars in the Middle East?

Wed 6 May, 6.30pm,  
Bolton Socialist Club,  
16 Wood St (off  
Bradshawgate), BL1 1DY

### BRIGHTON

#### What's happening in Kenya?

Wed 29 Apr, 7.30pm,  
Friends Meeting House,  
Ship St, BN1 1AF

### BRISTOL: SOUTH

#### Is Marxism still relevant today?

Thu 30 Apr, 7pm,  
The Robin Hood,  
56 St Michael's Hill, BS2 8DX

### CAMBRIDGE

#### Alienation—why we don't control our lives

Thu 30 Apr, 7.30pm,  
Shanghai Family Restaurant,  
39 Burleigh St,  
CB1 1DG

### CARDIFF

#### Syriza and socialist strategy

Wed 29 Apr, 7.30pm,  
Cathays Community Centre,  
Cathays Terrace,  
CF24 4HX

### CHELMSFORD

#### How do we fight for women's liberation?

Thu 21 May, 7.30pm,  
Friends Meeting House,  
Rainsford Rd,  
CM1 2QL

### COLCHESTER

#### Immigration—the myths used to divide us

Tue 28 Apr, 7.30pm,  
The Odd One Out,  
28 Mersea Rd, CO2 7ET

### COVENTRY

#### Capitalism, class and inequality—how do we deal with the one percent?

Wed 29 Apr, 7.30pm,  
West Indian Centre,  
159 Spon St, CV1 3BB

### DONCASTER

#### The resistible rise of Marine Le Pen and the Nazi Front National

Wed 29 Apr, 7pm,  
Women's Centre,  
21 Cleveland St,  
DN1 3EH

### DORCHESTER

#### Socialists and elections

Sat 9 May, 12 noon,  
Colliton Club (opposite County Hall), Colliton Park,  
DT1 1XJ

### DUNDEE

#### Was there ever a time when the Labour Party was socialist?

Wed 29 Apr, 7.30pm,  
Dundee Voluntary Action,  
10 Constitution Rd,  
DD1 1LL

### ESSEX

#### The Labour Party and the general election

Thu 7 May, 7.30pm,  
Friends Meeting House,  
Rainsford Rd,  
Chelmsford CM1 2QL

### GLASGOW: SOUTH

#### Capitalism versus the climate—is Naomi Klein right?

Thu 30 Apr, 7.30pm,  
Govanhill Baths,  
99 Calder St,  
G42 7RA

### HUDDERSFIELD

#### The Westminster elite—is the old party system dying?

Wed 29 Apr, 6.30pm,  
Brian Jackson House,  
2 New North Parade (near both train and bus stations),  
HD1 5JP

### IPSWICH

#### Why we say that workers have the power to change the world

Tue 5 May, 7pm,  
Labour Club,  
33-35 Silent St, IP1 1TF

### KIRKCALDY

#### The Westminster elite—is the old party system dying?

Mon 4 May, 7.30pm,  
Betty Nicol's pub,  
297 High St,  
KY1 1JL

### LANCASTER

#### Why you should read the Communist Manifesto

Thu 30 April, 7pm,  
Friends Meeting House,  
Meeting House Lane,  
LA1 1TX

### LEICESTER

#### Socialists and elections

Wed 29 Apr, 7pm,  
Leicester Adult Education College, 2 Wellington St,  
LE1 6HL

### LONDON: Brixton

#### Are the Greens the way forward?

Wed 29 Apr, 7pm,  
Vida Walsh Centre (near Effra Rd, facing Windrush Square), 2b Saltoun Rd,  
SW2 1EP

### LONDON: Ealing

#### Malcolm X—fighting racism by any means necessary

Wed 29 Apr, 7.30pm,  
W3 Gallery, 185 High St,  
Acton, W3 9DJ

### LONDON: TOWER HAMLETS

#### Socialists and elections

Wed 6 May, 7pm,  
Oxford House, Derbyshire St (opposite Bethnal Green Rd Tesco), E2 6HG

### LONDON: Waltham Forest

#### Socialists and elections

Wed 29 Apr, 7.30pm,  
Quaker Meeting House,  
1a Jewel Rd (off Hoe St),  
E17 4QU

### MANCHESTER: LONGSIGHT AND LEVENSHULME

#### From coal mines to call centres—the changing working class

Wed 29 Apr, 7.30pm,  
Food Factory,  
884 Stockport Rd,  
M19 3BN

### NORWICH

#### Film showing—

#### Still The Enemy Within

Thu 30 Apr, 7.30pm,  
Vauxhall Centre,  
Johnson Place,  
NR2 2SA

### NOTTINGHAM

#### Were the Lib Dems always yellow Tories?

Wed 29 Apr, 7.30pm,  
International Community Centre, 61b Mansfield Rd,  
NG1 3FN

### OXFORD

#### From Selma to Ferguson—the fight for Civil Rights in the US

Wed 29 Apr, 7.30pm,  
Restore,  
Manzil Way (off Cowley Rd),  
OX4 1YH

### ROTHERHAM

#### Can there be a revolution in Britain?

Wed 29 Apr, 7pm,  
Talbot Lane Methodist Church,  
Moorgate St,  
S60 2EY

### SHEFFIELD: CITY CENTRE

#### Putin, Ukraine and the West—are we heading for another Cold War?

Thu 30 Apr, 7.30pm,  
Central United Reformed Church, 60 Norfolk St (near the Crucible theatre),  
S1 2JB

## SOCIALIST WORKER BRANCH MEETINGS

Celebrity campaigner Russell Brand joins nurses in the RCN union

As Russell Brand releases the Emperor's New Clothes...

# THE SYSTEM IS IN CRISIS— WHAT WOULD REAL DEMOCRACY LOOK LIKE?

### BIRMINGHAM: CITY CENTRE

Thu 30 Apr, 7pm,  
Priory rooms, Quaker Meeting House,  
40 Bull St,  
B4 6AF

### DERBY

Thu 30 Apr, 7pm,  
West End Community Centre (next to Britannia Mill),  
Mackworth St, DE22 3BL

### HARLOW

Thu 30 Apr, 7.30pm,  
Friends Meeting House,  
1 Church Leys,  
CM18 6BX

### SOUTHAMPTON

#### How can Palestine be free?

Wed 29 Apr, 7.30pm,  
High Street Cafe,  
153 High St, SO14 2BT

### SWANSEA

#### The class struggle in Welsh history

Thu 30 Apr, 7.30pm,  
Brynmill Community Centre,  
St Albans Rd, SA2 0BP

### WIGAN

#### Human nature—are we too selfish for socialism?

Wed 29 Apr, 7pm,  
Anvil Arms,  
Dorning St, WN1 1ND  
**WOLVERHAMPTON/WALSALL**  
**Human nature—are we too selfish for socialism?**  
Wed 29 Apr, 7.30pm,  
Grain Store, King St, WV1 1ST  
**YORK**  
**Why do we sell Socialist Worker?**  
Wed 29 Apr, 7.30pm,  
Sea Horse Hotel,  
4 Fawcett St, YO10 4AH

## { MOVEMENT EVENTS }

### NATIONAL

#### Marxism 2015 festival

Thu 9-Mon 13 Jul,  
Central London.  
[marxismfestival.org.uk](http://marxismfestival.org.uk)

### LONDON: ISLINGTON

Thu 30 Apr, 7pm,  
The Old Fire Station,  
84 Mayton St,  
N7 6QT

### LONDON: LEWISHAM

Wed 29 Apr, 7.30pm,  
West Greenwich Community and Arts Centre,  
141 Greenwich High Rd,  
SE10 8JA

### LONDON: NEWHAM

Wed 29 Apr, 7.30pm,  
Stratford Advice Arcade,  
107-109 The Grove (next to Morrisons car park),  
E15 1HP

### MANCHESTER: CHORLTON

Wed 29 Apr, 7pm,  
Chorlton Library,  
Manchester Rd,  
M21 9PN

### NEWCASTLE

Thu 30 Apr, 7pm,  
The Labour Club,  
11 Leazes Park Rd,  
NE1 4PF

### PORTSMOUTH

Wed 29 Apr, 7.30pm,  
Somerstown Central,  
Rivers St,  
PO5 4EY

TUSC public meeting.

Wed 29 Apr, 7.30pm,  
Jack Kane Centre, 208 Niddrie Mains Rd, EH16 4ND

### LONDON

#### A socialist history of the French Revolution

With author Jean Jaures.  
Tue 26 May, 6.30pm,  
Bookmarks Bookshop,  
1 Bloomsbury St, London WC1B 3QE.  
Admission £2. Call 020 7637 1848 to reserve your place.  
[bookmarksbookshop.co.uk](http://bookmarksbookshop.co.uk)

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# Russell Brand cuts through the lies to show an alternative

The Emperor's New Clothes starring Russell Brand is a refreshing antidote to the election's consensus of austerity and racism, says **Tomáš Tengely-Evans**

**THE EMPEROR'S New Clothes is a serious and funny engagement with radical ideas on screen.**

The documentary stars celebrity campaigner Russell Brand. Director Michael Winterbottom has previously made a wide range of dramas and factual films, including 24 Hour Party People and The Road to Guantanamo.

It opens with Hans Christian Andersen's tale of two swindlers and a vain emperor. They tell him that they have woven a suit from cloth so fine it is invisible to the unworthy.

Everyone is keen to prove that they are worthy enough to see the wonderful clothes, until a child declares on the street, "But he isn't wearing anything at all!"

Brand takes the role of that child—pointing out the truth behind the lies. Scenes from the Lord Mayor's parade flash on the screen as the story is told.

But the film doesn't just focus on how servile some sections of society are. It looks at people who are fighting back against the system and possible alternatives.

It shows that for a cleaner working in a bank, it would take 300 years to make what a banker makes in just one year.

The film uses working class voices to further stress the deep inequality in society.

## Struggling

Brand goes back home to Grays in Essex and talks to a local government worker struggling on £20,000 and her daughter who'll have to face massive university tuition fees.

He also focuses on struggle, interviewing the outsourced Your Choice Barnet and Care UK workers and the New Era housing campaigners.

He contrasts the crackdown after the 2011 riots with the bankers getting away with causing the crisis.

He drives round the city of London with a "Shop a Banker" advertising car trying to get into banks to confront the bosses.

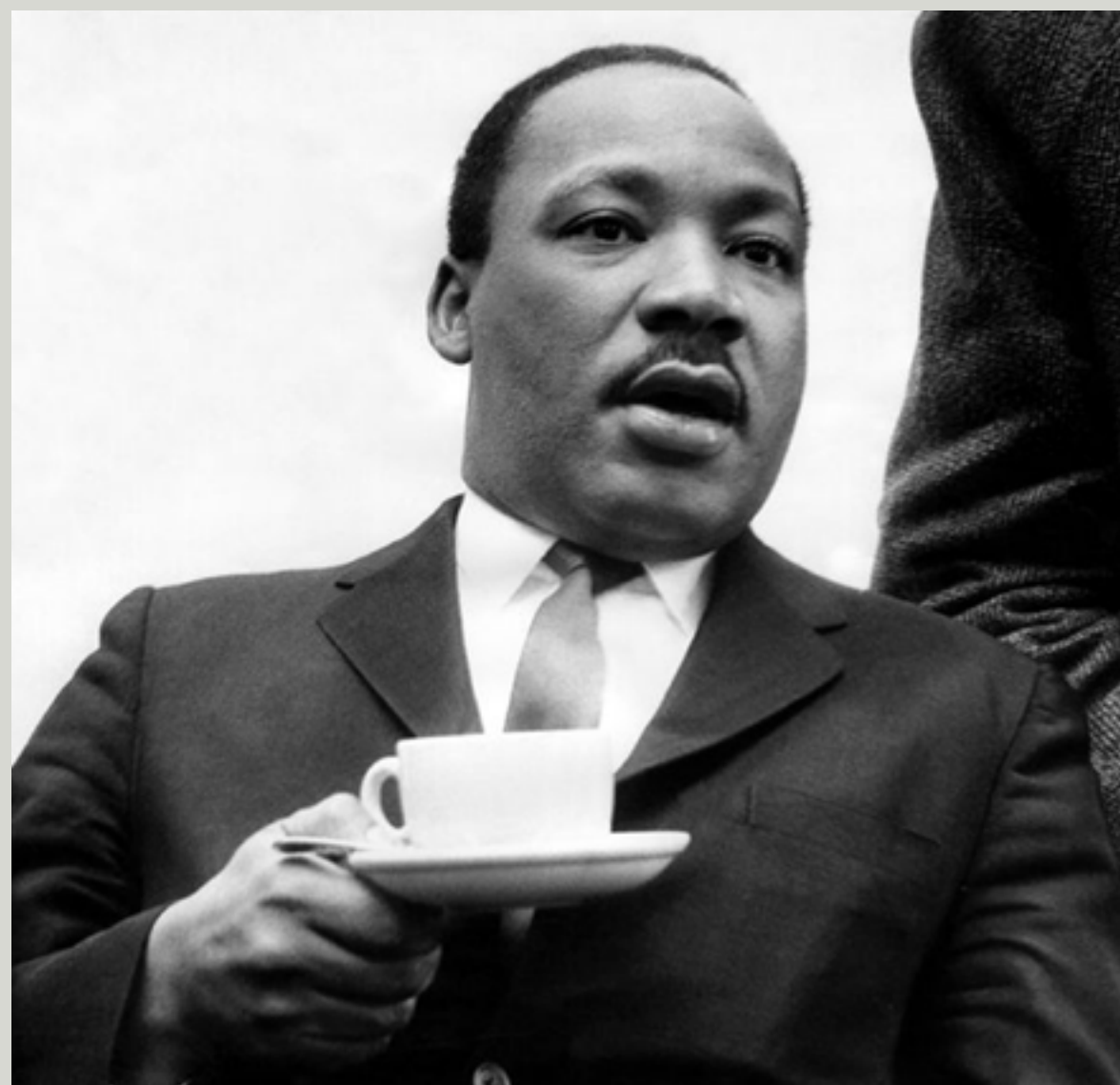
Migrant workers are also included and Brand witheringly mocks Ukip leader Nigel Farage for blaming immigration for everything. It's refreshing to have something punch through the general election's austerity and racism consensus.

One uplifting aspect of the film is that it asserts that we can get change—that everything is still to play for.

Hopefully it can reach a big audience with that radical idea.

**The Emperor's New Clothes**  
directed by Michael Winterbottom  
Revolution Films  
Out from Friday

## Civil Rights



Martin Luther King visiting Newcastle University in 1967

## Fights for justice in the US and here

### EXHIBITION

**JOURNEY TO JUSTICE: FOOTSTEPS FOR FREEDOM IN THE NORTH EAST**  
Discovery Museum,  
Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4JA.  
Until 4 May  
The exhibition will then tour  
For more information go to  
[journeytojustice.org.uk](http://journeytojustice.org.uk)

**THIS EXHIBITION** draws parallels between the Civil Rights movement in the US and various struggles for social justice in different parts of Britain.

Here it highlights the 1930s Jarrow March in the North East. When it tours it will look at the Chartists in Wales, the Suffragettes in Manchester and the rent strikes in Glasgow.

The exhibition's politics are pretty spot on too.

Civil Rights weren't benevolently granted from above by the likes of US president Lyndon B Johnson.

Nor were they simply won by heroic individuals.

What's impressive about this exhibition is how it looks

at the links between the Civil Rights movement and workers' struggles.

It tells us important stories that you wouldn't normally get taught, such as boycotts that took place.

The exhibition also looks at the Memphis refuse strike of March 1968, which became part of the struggle against racism in the city.

There will be a series of music events and lectures while the exhibition runs in Newcastle. Thanks to Daniel Kebede

## MUSIC

### READING WRITING REVOLUTION

Thee Faction

Out now

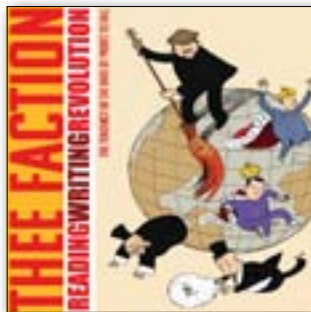
Download the single Choose Your Enemy for free and order the album at [theefaction.wordpress.com](http://theefaction.wordpress.com)

THEE FACTION have made quite an impact during the last five years with their rabble-rousing socialist rhythm and blues.

They make complaints about the lack of mainstream political bands—such as the recent article by columnist Owen Jones—obsolete.

And with Reading Writing Revolution, they've produced their most polished and danceable record to date, without compromising their hard hitting politics.

The first single, Choose Your Enemy, is a perfect



Reading, Writing, Revolution

example. The track yells "hit".

But the song is all about bashing the bastards that hold us down.

Strictly Come Marching shows Thee Faction haven't lost their sense of humour. Bastards is an angry punk romp, while Bubble is a gentle acoustic paean to freedom, in all its meanings.

This record deserves to be number one in election week. Richard Rose

## TOP 5 BOOKS

**Bestsellers at Bookmarks, the socialist Bookshop**

- CLR James in Hackney**  
Edited by Gaverne Bennett and Christian Hogsbjerg
- This Changes Everything**  
Naomi Klein
- Blacklisted**  
Phil Chamberlain and Dave Smith
- NHS for Sale—Myths, Lies and Deception**  
Jacky Davis, David Wrigley, John Lister
- Sexism and the system**  
Judith Orr

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Why not visit the shop at 1 Bloomsbury Street, London WC1B 3QE



**T**HE majority of working class people dread the idea that the Tories might win the general election.

They know that it will lead to an attempt to finish off the NHS, years of more assaults on our living standards and a systematic offensive to take away everything workers have fought for and gained.

But many do not see the Labour Party as a serious alternative. The last Labour government backed war and privatisation, while in opposition Labour has accepted austerity.

Of course it is not irrelevant who wins on 7 May. If the Tories win the election then every reactionary, racist and pro-capitalist throughout the land will rejoice.

They will feel that bit more confident to attack us.

The bullying boss, the police chief and the judge will all be even surer that the politicians will back them up.

If Labour wins it will boost many working class people's confidence to have got rid of the Tories.

Our attitude towards the Labour Party is based on its historic links to the organised working class in the trade unions.

Labour's links with the trade unions have been stretched to almost breaking point and workers' loyalty to the party is wearing thin.

### Neoliberal

What's happened to Labour? Tony Blair and the New Labour project undoubtedly wanted to turn Labour into another "neoliberal" party without formal links to the unions.

The Blairites failed, but they significantly frayed the party's links with the unions and its working class base.

The Iraq war, exploding inequality and the submission to big business meant that many people felt Labour had ceased to be "their party".

But the unions still support and provide most of the funds for the party. Just last month Unite handed over £1 million with no strings attached.

However, Labour's link with the working class does not boil down to union funding or the fact that many workers still vote for it.

US unions are also the biggest donors to the Democratic Party and many of its leaders enjoy cosy relationships with its top politicians.

Nor is it just about policies—the Scottish National Party (SNP), Plaid Cymru and the Green Party have far more left wing manifestos.

Before the first Labour government was even formed, the Russian revolutionary Vladimir Lenin argued that Labour was a "capitalist workers' party". "The Labour Party is a thoroughly



# THE LABOUR PARTY AND SOCIALISM

Tomáš Tengely-Evans looks at the shifting relationship between the Labour Party, the trade unions and socialism in the run-up to the general election



Lenin in 1918

bourgeois party," he said in 1920. "While made up of workers it is led by reactionaries, and the worst kind of reactionaries at that, who act quite in the spirit of the bourgeoisie.

"It is an organisation of the bourgeoisie, which exists to systematically dupe the workers."

The Labour Party was set up by Trades Union Congress (TUC) and socialists in a period of defeat. The great struggles that led to the new mass unions at the end of the 19th century



**Labour's union links have been stretched to almost breaking point**

had come to an end.

The trade union leaders realised the need for independent representation in parliament, instead of simply relying on the out-and-out capitalist Liberal Party.

Many workers came to look to the Labour Party to deliver reforms as opposed to relying on their own strength.

While a step forward for independent working class representation, it was never a socialist party that set out to

abolish capitalism.

The most fundamental contradiction within "Labourism" is that it articulated workers' aspirations for a better world, but aimed to take the reins of the capitalist state.

### Golden

The apparent golden age of Labour after 1945 with the creation of the NHS and the welfare state was not a result of Labourism. It came from the ruling class's fear of a radicalised workers' movement after the Second World War.

The Labour government presided over far-reaching reforms, but also defended the empire, attacked striking workers and went along with racist scapegoating.

Such experiences (which have been repeated in even sharper forms under every Labour government) led to some workers breaking from Labour.

But they also lead to internal conflicts between the unions, the Labour MPs, the individual members and the party bureaucrats.

At some points (such as in the early 1980s) the party leaders have used the union leaders to defeat more left wing members in the constituencies.

More recently union influence has been steadily eroded—without real opposition from the unions.

For instance, Ed Miliband moved to weaken the links with the unions in 2013—and despite much noise, the union leaders backed down after securing some concessions from the original plans.

The pressure on union leaders, including left wingers who've been critical of Ed Miliband, was to shut up and get behind the Labour leadership.

When the Labour Party's national policy forum voted last year against breaking with austerity, it included top union representatives from the likes of Unite.

**H**OWEVER, this isn't just a one way street, with the unions loyally allowing Labour to stick two fingers up to them.

Unite and the GMB union have explicitly tried to get working class union members selected as council and parliamentary candidates and shift party policies leftwards.

Unison is slow to criticise the Labour Party, but was the union leading industrial action in the run-up to the general election.

From the union bureaucracy's perspective, the four-hour health walkouts last year were a serious effort to shape Labour's agenda.

Many ordinary trade unionists are frustrated and uninspired with Labour, but will still cast their vote for it.

But loyalty is wearing thin and for many people a Labour

vote is making less and less sense.

In Scotland there has been a qualitative shift in workers' attitudes towards Labour, despite the links with the union bureaucracy remaining.

Labour support has collapsed after it did the Tories' dirty work in campaigning for a No vote during last year's referendum campaign.

Opinion polls show workers are breaking from Labour in its former heartlands.

In 2010 Labour won the Glasgow South West constituency by 19,863 votes to the SNP's 5,192. Last week a poll showed the SNP 21 percent ahead.

The SNP is ahead in polls in Gordon Brown's former constituency.

Workers in Scotland are abandoning Labour for what are seen as left alternatives.

But this shift is being funnelled into the capitalist SNP party rather than a genuine left alternative.

That's why the main task for socialists is still building a working class left alternative.

In Scotland the Labour Party is on the verge of suffering the same rejection as happened in Greece to the Pasok party. In 2009 Pasok won the elections with 44 percent of the vote. This year it was nearly wiped out with just 4.7 percent of the vote.

In England and Wales the crisis is not yet so deep. But it is no longer the case that workers who want change automatically look to Labour.

There are a range of parties that left wing workers now support.

Labour is still not an unashamedly bosses' party like the Tories. And its links to the working class remain.

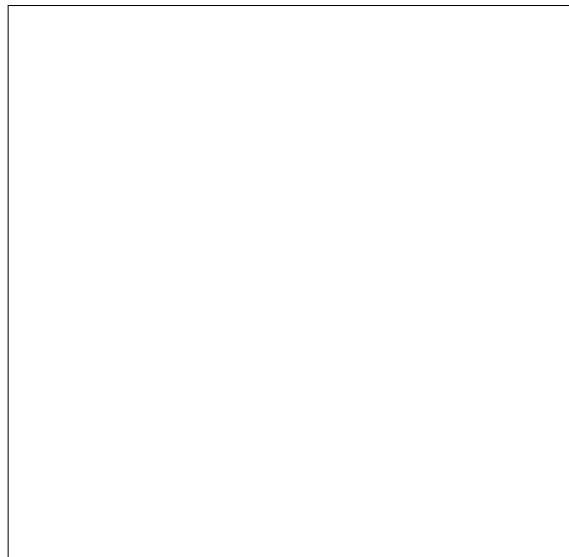
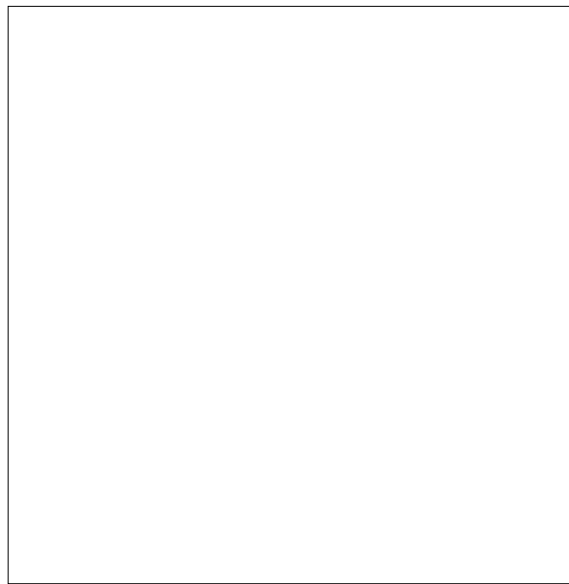
On present trends Labour may, for all its betrayals and shortcomings, stagger into Number 10 after the election.

"Labourism" is not dead but it is under severe strain and we want to win workers away from those ideas and to the left.

The danger is that unless there is a strong socialist alternative, workers revolted by Labour can be attracted by the populist racism of Ukip.

That is what has happened in France where the Socialist Party's Francois Hollande was elected president in 2012 after five years of brutal right wing rule.

But far from breaking firmly



**Ed Miliband addresses the TUC (top), but party support in Scotland plummeted after Labour did the Tories' dirty work during the referendum (above)**

from his predecessor, he continued with austerity and racist scapegoating.

And the fascist National Front of Marine Le Pen has been the greatest beneficiary.

We need an unashamedly socialist party to stand against Labour—and the SNP.

The Socialist Workers Party is standing as part of the Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition (TUSC) to develop a stronger and broader left.

It's about positioning ourselves within the weakening of Labourism to try and break workers away from it—during the election and afterwards.

The decline in support for Labour underlines the need for a united left alternative in England and Wales as well as in Scotland.

It must have real roots and, unlike Labour, an orientation on workers' struggles and fighting for socialism.

## READ MORE

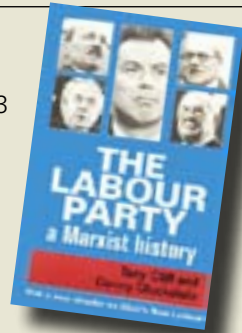
### ●The Labour Party: A Marxist History

by Tony Cliff and Donny Gluckstein  
£5.00

●Miliband's balancing act: Labour and the unions  
by Ian Taylor  
Socialist Review 387  
bit.ly/1b4noG9

●Classical Marxism and the question of reformism  
by Donny Gluckstein, in International Socialism 143  
bit.ly/1PXQfwi

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bookmarksbookshop.co.uk



## A step towards a new left workers' party

A new left is emerging from the splits of the ruling ANC party. But not all the new radicals are involved, reports Ken Olende



DELEGATES AT the Conference for Socialism last week

### BACK STORY

**A new radicalism has swept South Africa in recent years**

●The dominance of the ruling ANC party has weakened

●The main union federation Cosatu is split as metal workers' union Numsa has called for a new left party

●A Conference for Socialism brought forces together to further the project last week

●But platinum miners and the Economic Freedom Fighters were not involved

players who have been central to the new radicalism in South Africa—Julius Malema's new Economic Freedom Fighters party and the platinum miners.

"Those are mass formations," said Rehad. "Numsa needs to make sure they realise we want them to take part in the talks.

"We want them to be part of deciding the outcome."

Trevor Ngwane told Socialist Worker about the growth in xenophobia.

He said, "The problem is a feeling among a lot of poor working class people that the middle classes ignore them until a crisis like this emerges.

"We need to make sure that the challenges facing ordinary working class people are brought to the front of politics."

### Unity

The conference statement said, "We call upon all our members and structures to campaign in the workplaces and communities for an end to these deadly attacks and to do everything possible to build unity.

"Let us never forget the solidarity and support we received in the struggle against apartheid from the people of the world and from Africa in particular."

The conference statement concluded, "There is a solution to the problem of xenophobia, poverty, unemployment and extreme inequalities—it is socialism... Workers own no country, workers of the world unite!"



**Challenges of working class people must be brought to the front of politics**



# Three kinds of racism in Australia

by JAMES SUPPLE in Sydney

IN THE face of dire poll ratings, Australia's right wing prime minister Tony Abbott is resorting to an Islamophobic terror scare.

He's talked up the threat of Isis and has publicly questioned Muslims' opposition to terrorism.

Cops have staged a succession of raids to disrupt supposed terror plots.

Meanwhile, the government is pouring fuel on the fire by sending another 300 troops to train the Iraqi army.

Abbott has tried to link refugees to terrorism, declaring the "terror threat" shows "why we have to stop the refugee boats...these people have been given the benefit of the doubt for too long".

Under the government's hardline policies, asylum boats have been turned back and even handed back to refugees' persecutors.

Boats have been returned to the Sri Lankan government and most recently Vietnam.

But refugees dumped on the Pacific island Nauru are staging large protests as part of a non cooperation campaign with the

local authorities. The strains on the policy are also growing.

Former and current detention staff and medical workers on Nauru have signed an open letter alleging the government covered up physical and sexual assaults for 17 months.

This state racism has encouraged the far right, which staged Islamophobic "Reclaim Australia" protests earlier this month.

## Protests

The protests only managed to draw hundreds in each city, but it was the first time the far right has even managed to draw such numbers for some time.

But anti-racist counter-protests exposed their links to the far right.

In Melbourne, where the racists were outnumbered, the organisers complained to the police about their treatment.

While it has encouraged the hardcore racists, so far the terrorism scare has failed to boost the government's support.

There is still enormous anger at the health, education and welfare cuts in last year's budget.

Abbott caused further outrage with cuts that will leave 100

to 150 remote Aboriginal communities on traditional lands in western Australia without power or running water.

In March he dismissed Aborigines' right to live on their

own land as a "lifestyle choice" that the government wasn't prepared to fund.

This continues the assimilation policies introduced in the Northern Territory in 2007, where

remote communities branded "economically unviable" were denied funding.

Last year Abbott described Australia as "unsettled" before European colonisation, despite at least 60,000 years of Aboriginal presence.

## Streets

Thousands of people have taken to the streets in protest at his racism against Aboriginal people.

"Moving Aboriginal people from their homelands will cause intergenerational trauma," Aboriginal lawyer Tammy Solonec told one of the largest rallies in Perth, western Australia.

"It will break connections to land and culture."

The protests have already had an impact. Australia's federal government has been forced to back down and restore funding to 60 other Aboriginal communities in South Australia that were also up for closure.

Racist scapegoating is Abbott's last desperate attempt to survive.

Resisting it can help make sure his government is forced out sooner rather than later.

James Supple is a revolutionary socialist in Solidarity in Australia

A protest in March against state racism against Aboriginal people

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# How workers are fighting back against low pay and zero hours

Low paid workers are unable to make ends meet as bosses cut their hours and attack their conditions—but they are organising resistance in Britain and beyond, reports Nick Clark

**MORE AND more workers are struggling with low pay and poor working conditions as bosses make them suffer to weather the financial crisis.**

Kieran, a restaurant worker at Heathrow Airport, knows this too well. His bosses are trying to cut workers' hours at the same time as taking more money off them.

He told Socialist Worker, "I've been working at the restaurant for 15 years. They pay the minimum wage and take 30 percent of our credit card tips—now they want to take that up to 60 percent".

He added, "I'm on a 35-hour contract. But last week they only gave me 28 because there wasn't enough work. It's completely illegal, but they'll try and get away with anything".

The attacks are linked to the issue of zero hours contracts, which are making life a misery for thousands of workers in Britain.

The contracts don't guarantee a set number of hours. Instead they give bosses power to alter hours on a daily or weekly basis.

## Money

This means workers never know how much money they will have coming in from one week to the next.

Toni works in two different cafes on zero hours contracts in Glasgow.

"You can't really plan from one week to the next," she told Socialist Worker. "I'm lucky I don't have a car or a family or a mortgage. But there are a lot of people on zero hours contracts who do."

"If I get my rota for my other job and the shifts don't match up they just cut my hours."

"The only reason I'm doing two shifts in the first place is that I don't



FAST FOOD Rights protest outside a McDonald's in London last week

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

have enough money to live on."

Kiya, a hotel worker in London, is not on a zero hours contract—but still has problems with hours.

She said, "On reception we work eight and a half hour shifts, with half an hour taken off for a break."

"That's pretty much eight solid hours on your feet."

"When we ask for a break our

supervisor thinks it's a strange thing. They tell me I'm lucky because agency workers don't get them at all."

"They seem to think we don't need any breaks".

The attacks on workers' conditions can be linked to the economic crisis.

When profits fall or stagnate, bosses will try to squeeze as much as they can out of workers by forcing

them to work longer for less.

But there has been resistance. Low paid workers and workers on zero hours contracts are joining unions and organising a fightback.

As Toni said, "Fighting back starts with us. Without us, the bosses would be fuck all."

Some workers' names have been changed

## 'People have to organise fightback in their workplace'

**LOW PAID workers and other activists held protests across Britain on Wednesday of last week.**

The demonstrations were organised by the Fast Food Rights campaign.

They were part of an international day of action demanding an end to zero hours contracts, to demand a living wage and building trade union organisation.

Cafe workers on zero hours contracts Toni and Lorna led the march in Glasgow.

Lorna told Socialist

Worker, "Our boss actually said to me if he was to pay his staff a living wage he would lose £1,200 a year. That's nothing. That's £25 a week".

She added, "He's going on a motorbike holiday to the states next week."

"He's got plenty of money for that and he won't even pay his staff enough to live on. He keeps all the profits that we make."

Lorna and Toni have both joined the food workers' union Bfawu. And they're getting others to do the same.

Lorna said, "People have got to join the union—they've got to organise to fight back in their workplaces. They need to start taking action and doing stuff."

The Fast Food Rights campaign was launched by the bakers' union Bfawu at a meeting hosted by Labour MP John McDonnell and Unite the Resistance in January last year.

Bfawu national president Ian Hodson joined the protest in London.

He told Socialist Worker,



On the march in Glasgow

PICTURE: JOSH BROWN

"The fundamental part of the campaign is that we remind people of their power—that it's people who change things."

He also said that the union will consider strikes if bosses refuse to listen to workers' demands.

"If management aren't prepared to talk, we're going to have to take action," he said.

"If that means hitting them where it hurts by stopping them from being able to sell products, then that's what we'll do."

Get involved in the campaign [fastfoodrights.wordpress.com](http://fastfoodrights.wordpress.com)

## 60,000 take to US streets

**TENS OF thousands of striking low paid workers in more than 200 cities across the US walked out of work to join protests on Wednesday of last week.**

Some 60,000 joined demonstrations in cities including Boston, New York, Atlanta, Los Angeles and New Orleans.

It was the biggest action yet in the fight to make \$15 (£10) an hour the minimum wage and for union rights.

The protests were also the largest by low paid workers in US history. Some 15,000 took demonstrated in New York City.

The Fight for \$15 campaign began with

### Protester in New York City

fast food workers in New York in 2012.

It has since widened to involve other low paid workers.

Wednesday's protesters included home-care assistants, Walmart workers, child-care aides, airport workers and other low wage workers.

The global day of action also saw strikes in Italy, France and New Zealand.

And low paid workers joined demonstrations in over 40 countries, including Brazil and Hong Kong.



## IN BRIEF

**Workers shut down museums in pay row**

TWO NATIONAL museums in Edinburgh shut down for two days last week as workers struck over pay.

Some 100 PCS union members at the National Museum of Scotland began their walkout on Thursday of last week. The National War Museum also shut down.

Workers are angry at bosses' decision to remove weekend working allowances.

**Notts strike fights for Living Wage**

MANUFACTURING workers in Worksop, Nottinghamshire, walked out over pay on Tuesday of this week.

The GMB union members want a living wage.

Their Cinch Connectivity Solutions bosses get much of their work from the Ministry of Defence. Workers planned an overtime ban from Wednesday of this week.

**Sellafield safety talks break down**

CONSTRUCTION workers at the Sellafield nuclear site in Cumbria have voted to take industrial action over health and safety.

The dispute also concerns union facility time.

Workers will decide what type of industrial action they will take, at a meeting next week. Talks broke down on Wednesday of last week and 98 percent of Unite union members supported action.

**Action suspended at Smurfit Kappa**

A PLANNED four-day strike at packaging firm Smurfit Kappa in Northampton was suspended last week.

Workers in the Unite union are waiting to hear the outcome of an appeal for the two sacked workers they are defending. An overtime ban continued as Socialist Worker went to press.

**An uncompromising challenge to racism**

MORE THAN 70 people came to the Catching History on the Wing event in central London last Saturday to celebrate the contribution A Sivanandan has made to the Institute for Race Relations.

Contributors recalled how vital it was to challenge racism without compromise in the 1970s and the need for such a response today.

**Barking bin staff in last minute talks**

THE GMB union was in last minute talks to stop ten more days of strikes by refuse lorry drivers in Barking and Dagenham, east London.

The workers are fighting a £1,000 pay cut and attacks on health and safety. A two-day walkout is planned from Thursday of this week.

## LGBT LIBERATION



AROUND 300 people joined a protest against the closure of The Black Cap pub in Camden, central London, last Saturday. The pub was a prominent LGBT venue since the 1960s when homosexuality was illegal. Sign the petition [chn.ge/1JmdR8C](http://chn.ge/1JmdR8C)

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

## CIVIL SERVICE WORKERS

# Week-long walkout at ex-MoD firm over pay

by ANNETTE MACKIN

SOME 200 pensions administrators and IT staff began a five-day strike on Monday of this week.

They have rejected an offer of a measly 9p an hour pay rise.

The former Ministry of Defence staff now work for US multinational Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC).

PCS union branch chair Harold Good said, "With the constant low pay rises across the company and chipping away at individuals' terms

and conditions it has finally come to the point where the employees, with one voice, have stated—this ends today."

CSC's boss was given an £8.7 million bonus last year.

Yet workers have been offered a pay rise of 0.3 percent for the first eight months of the pay year and 0.6 percent for the last four months. This amounts to less than 9p an hour.

**Escalate**

Workers voted by 80 percent to escalate from a two-month work to rule to a five-day walkout.

The turnout was 96 percent. The PCS members have said there will be more walkouts if bosses do not pay up.

"PCS members are prepared to take a stand for what they are worth, which is a lot more than CSC appear to believe their staff deserve," said Harold.

"We hope that CSC will see sense and come back to the table with a much improved offer. But it will have to be something serious and more substantial than the current derisory offer."

●Send messages of support to [hgood176@btinternet.com](mailto:hgood176@btinternet.com)

## WINDSOR CASTLE

## Work to rule against the queen's low pay

LOW PAID workers at one of the queen's palaces have voted overwhelmingly to take industrial action in a row over pay.

Windsor Castle staff voted

by 84 percent for action short of a strike.

They are paid less than the Living Wage. New recruits start on as little as £14,400 a year. And in the last few years they

have been asked to carry out extra duties for no additional pay while facing pay cuts.

The PCS union says that action could start at the end of the month.

## TRANSPORT

## London bus bosses forced into pay talks

UNITE UNION reps heard last week that bosses at most of London's bus firms have been forced into talks they previously refused to take part in.

Pressure from two solid walkouts earlier this year has made the difference. But it is still early stages and some bosses remain resistant.

Craig, a Unite convenor in north London, told Socialist Worker he was "happy" at how the dispute has developed. "The companies were saying 'never' to talks but we've forced them to the table."

Unite rep Des, who works for Go Ahead, added, "It's a good thing that talks are

happening—that's progress."

Drivers doing the same job receive more than 80 different pay rates and over £3 an hour difference across the capital's 18 bus operators.

Workers want an end to it. Craig said, "This is about winning collective bargaining for over 20,000 bus drivers."

"It's about job security and drivers taking their conditions with them if they move garage or to another company. To win we need every driver involved."

More talks are set for Monday of next week.

The union should put the Tories on the spot with the general election underway and push Labour to show

whose side they are on.

But Des argued, "If nothing comes out of these talks we must call action straight away and put the pressure back on."

**Raymie Kiernan**

●Workers' names have been changed

■THE RMT rail union has announced it will move to a national ballot for strikes and action short of strikes at Network Rail after bosses failed to improve a pay offer.

The union said the latest offer was well short of what is required to maintain the living standards, job security and working conditions of its 16,000 members.

## DEATH IN CUSTODY

## March for Aston Williams

THE FAMILY of a man who died after a collision with a police car led a march to Reading Police station last Saturday to demand justice.

Aston McLean Williams died in August last year after the collision in east Reading.

Since then his family has been unable to bury the father of two while an investigation

by the Independent Police Complaints Commission continues.

The march was led by his girlfriend Shanice Medford

and made its way from the scene of the collision through to the town centre.

Marchers carried placards calling for justice and an end to police killings.

●See RIP Aston

McLean Williams on Facebook



## ANTI-FASCISM ROUND-UP

■ANTI-fascists outnumbered a group of Nazis who turned up to an Antisemitic event organised by White Power fascists in Clapton, east London, last Saturday.

The fascists had aimed to target the local Jewish community. News of the fascists' presence spread and brought 100 locals out to oppose the 22 Nazi thugs.

■AROUND 40 Unite Against Fascism supporters stopped a march of 30 English Defence League racists in Solihull, West Midlands, last Saturday.

It came after a series of racist incidents in the past fortnight.

Anti-fascists got a good response from locals while the racists skulked in a pub. **Jen Austin**

## TTIP



Protest against TTIP in London

PICTURE: RICHARD DONNELLY

## Protests against trade deal

OVER 200 activists gathered in Shepherd's Bush, west London, last Saturday as part of a day of action against TTIP. Actions took place across Britain.

The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) is a new free trade agreement due to be agreed between the US and EU by the end of 2015.

Campaigners say that it will facilitate a serious attack on workers' rights and open up the NHS to US corporate health giants.

Demonstrators listened to speeches and broke into small groups to discuss ways to resist the toxic treaty.

Then they marched to KFC to protest against the introduction of chemically washed chicken, which would probably become legal in the EU under TTIP.

Others occupied a BP petrol station and shut down the forecourt, claiming that TTIP will undermine legislation limiting the use of fossil fuels. They chanted, "TTIP—sponsored by BP"

The event was organised by Global Justice Now, Brick Lane Debates, Keep Our NHS Public, War on Want and Friends of the Earth.

**Richard Donnelly**

## BUS WORKERS

SOME 380 bus drivers were set to strike in Bradford on Monday and Tuesday of next week. The Unite union members are fighting job cuts.

Unite accuses First West Yorkshire bosses of running the bus depot down with the intention of closing it in the future.

They have attacked terms and conditions, imposed new rosters and moved jobs out of Bradford without consulting workers.

The union also said that there were allegations of bullying and harassment.

## ENGINEERS

A PLANNED strike of engineers in the Unite union at Fox's Biscuits in Batley, West Yorkshire, was called off this week when bosses agreed to resume negotiations.

The workers are in dispute after bosses offered a "paltry" 1 percent pay rise this year and 2 percent next year.

To add insult to injury the firm did not even talk to the union about the rise due last August, until November. They voted by 65 percent for strikes.

**Martin Jones**



## EDUCATION

# Workers hit back at hated new contracts

by SADIE ROBINSON

**WORKERS AT Greenwich College in south east London struck on Tuesday of this week against new contracts.**

The contracts would add two hours to the working week, slash holidays and bring in unannounced lesson observations.

Lynne Chamberlain is a UCU member at the college and a parliamentary candidate for the Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition (TUSC).

She told Socialist Worker, "The principal wants blood—and she is not backing down. What's really upsetting people is the on the spot observations. People are saying that even Ofsted gives two days' notice."

Workers were set to strike on Thursday of this week, and on Wednesday and Friday of next week.

The UCU branch met on Monday of this week and overwhelmingly agreed to call for a four-day strike beginning on 5 May if an agreement isn't reached.

The meeting voted to offer a concession to management over holidays if bosses agreed to retreat on other attacks. But some workers were



STRIKERS ON the picket line outside Greenwich College last week

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

unhappy that union officials seemed to be encouraging them to offer concessions.

Lynne said, "Some people feel we shouldn't give anything. Others say we should give no more concessions. A minority on the picket line were saying we should go for an all-out strike."

The union was set to meet bosses on Wednesday of this week. Workers have shown they are willing to fight. And the struggle has helped build the union—the branch has recruited 11 people during the dispute.

Over £200 was raised at a special further education

sector conference last Saturday.

Strikers need solidarity. And they should demand their national union throws its weight behind them instead of looking for compromises.

●Send messages of support to lynne.windeatt@btinternet.com and sbaille@gcc.ac.uk

## STUDENTS

### Fight goes on after court rules to evict occupiers

**STUDENTS occupying the University of Arts London (UAL) in protest over course cuts were evicted last week. The students and their supporters had been occupying the reception area at the university's Central St Martins campus in central London since March.**

They are fighting management plans to cut over 800 places on art and design foundation courses. The plans would put university workers' jobs at risk and make it harder for people to study at university.

But a ruling at the Royal Courts of Justice in central London last week granted bosses permission to evict the protesters. An injunction

naming 15 of the protesters was dropped.

Around 100 of the students and their supporters held a noisy protest outside the court. They marched to the UAL campus at High Holborn and blocked the road.

The students agreed to leave the occupation voluntarily—and have vowed to continue the campaign

● Sign the petition against course closures [chn.ge/1yK4H5A](http://chn.ge/1yK4H5A)

■THE NATIONAL Union of Students national conference was set to begin as Socialist Worker went to press. It was set to run from Tuesday until Thursday in Liverpool this week.

## EDUCATION ROUND-UP

### Walkouts planned against university redundancies

**WORKERS AT the University of Dundee were set to strike on Tuesday of next week to stop compulsory redundancies.**

University bosses want to make up to 15 workers in the school of medicine and 17 in the college of arts and social sciences redundant.

UCU union members backed strikes by 72 percent in a ballot, and 88 percent supported action short of a strike.

A further walkout is set for 5 May.

●Send messages of support to [ducu@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:ducu@dundee.ac.uk)

■LONDON UCU has called a national demonstration against cuts to adult education funding for this Saturday in London.

The union has said that

if the cuts go ahead adult education and training in England will no longer exist. The national union has backed the protest.

Assemble at 12.30pm outside Lewisham and Southwark College, 25 The Cut, London SE1 8LE.

■TEACHERS WERE set to strike against academies at a west London school on Wednesday of this week.

The workers, at St Andrew's & St Francis primary school in Brent, are fighting a plan to turn the school into an academy.

The walkout follows three days of successful strikes by NUT and ATL union members last month.

●Send messages of support to [hankr@hotmail.com](mailto:hankr@hotmail.com) and [lesley18g@gmail.com](mailto:lesley18g@gmail.com)

## HOUSING

### Protests over homes crisis

**PROTESTS against homelessness took place outside Downing Street in central London and in a number of other cities on Wednesday of last week.**

Around 200 people marched through Hull and entered the Guildhall council building.

And protesters in Manchester stormed the town hall. In a separate protest, around 30 long term homeless people set up camp outside the next day.

Dozens of people protested outside a corporate housing fair in Cambridge last Thursday.

Housing campaigners and residents of Sweets Way estate in Barnet, north London, set up tents and held a children's party in the home garden of council leader Richard Cornelius.

This was against eviction threats and relocations they have faced because of plans to redevelop the estate.

Activists in Lambeth, south London, were set to protest on Wednesday of this week against plans to evict a disabled resident.

And a march against gentrification was set to take place in nearby Brixton on Saturday of this week.

## CWU UNION

### Dave Ward beats Billy Hayes

**DAVE WARD has won the election to become general secretary of the Communication Workers Union (CWU).**

Ward took just over 53 percent of the total votes cast to beat the incumbent general secretary Billy Hayes.

Ward had campaigned around promises to stand up for workers rather than simply acting as a "liaison officer for the Labour Party".

But so far Ward has not proven that he will provide the kind of fighting leadership he promises. As deputy general

secretary for post, Ward oversaw the privatisation of Royal Mail in 2013. The same is true for Hayes as general secretary.

But Hayes had shown commitment to supporting initiatives such as the Palestine Solidarity Campaign and Unite Against Fascism.

That is why Socialist Worker backed Hayes. It is important for trade unions to give a lead on political issues.

CWU activists now have to make sure the union keeps up its commitment to political campaigning.

## COUNCIL WORKERS

**THE UNISON union at Barnet Council in north London has announced its members are set to walk out on strike for two days on Thursday and Friday of next week.**

Council workers voted by 87 percent to fight yet another round of mass

outsourcing by the Tory-run council.

●Send messages of support to [contactus@barnetunison.org.uk](mailto:contactus@barnetunison.org.uk)

Send strike fund donations to Barnet Unison Industrial Action Fund, Building 4, North London Business Park, Oakleigh Road South, London N11 1NP

## TUC

### Black workers fight racism

**DELEGATES FROM across the Labour movement gathered in London last weekend for the annual TUC black workers conference.**

Growing opposition to the rising tide of racism was reflected at the conference.

Resolutions were passed against stop and search, the gutting of race equality legislation, the demonisation of migrants and the Islamophobic Prevent strategy.

Further motions were passed including in support of Stand Up to Ukip and the Movement Against Xenophobia's ongoing pro-immigration poster campaign.

There was criticism of the Labour Party. TUC general secretary Frances O'Grady set the tone by criticising the leadership for pandering to racism with its "tough on immigration" approach.

Stephen Lawrence's father



Neville Lawrence

Neville Lawrence was the keynote speaker at a meeting organised by the GMB union on stop and search.

He drew attention to the role unions played in the campaign to bring two of his son's racist killers to justice.

He urged unions to get behind efforts to fight racist policing saying, "Without the support of the unions our campaign would never have got off the ground."

Gary McFarlane



# SAY NO TO TORY FEAR MONGERS

by RAYMIE KIERNAN

**THE SCOTTISH National Party (SNP) and its leader Nicola Sturgeon have become the story of the general election.**

The party was supposed to have been finished off after losing the independence referendum last year.

But the sustained attacks from the right wing press and politicians in the past week show that the opposite is true.

The SNP's "end austerity" message is popular, and not just in Scotland where it is on course for a historic win.

As the Tories desperately seek reelection, David Cameron has been arguing a Labour government supported by the SNP would be "a match made in hell".

The Tories' friends in the press now dub Sturgeon the "most dangerous woman in the world" and claim the SNP will "hold Britain to ransom".

It's all very reminiscent of the referendum last year.

"It's the politics of fear," Glasgow civil service worker Kate Henry told Socialist Worker. "The Tories, Labour



**TUSC CANDIDATES offer a real alternative to austerity**

PICTURE: STEPHEN MCBROWN

and the Lib Dems are just using dirty tricks."

Kate and her husband Stevie reflect a wider trend going on in the city and across Scotland.

"I've always been a Labour voter but I see little difference with them and the Tories now,"

Stevie told Socialist Worker.

Kate and Stevie are voters in Glasgow North where the SNP and Labour are battling to win the election. They're unconvinced by the former and unimpressed by the latter.

Stevie thinks there will be "a landslide" for the SNP. He

said, "People are fed up and are looking for change."

Kate is angry at Labour. She said, "Ed Miliband apologising for Labour's immigration policy essentially just says Farage is right—it's disgusting."

This week the SNP launched

its manifesto. It says it is against austerity but admits that its proposed public spending increases are "modest".

Even the Wall Street investment bank Morgan Stanley argues the proposals are "not extreme".

The SNP's record is a

warning of what the future holds.

Kate and Stevie are voting for an alternative—the Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition (TUSC) candidate Angela McCormick. "Angela's strong and she is in nobody's pocket," said Kate.

## Challenge

"The SNP are much more to the left than Labour and I think Nicola Sturgeon seems quite genuine. But TUSC represents a real challenge to the mainstream."

Arguing to "lend" the SNP your vote on 7 May—as socialist politician Tommy Sheridan does—is a big mistake and will weaken the fight against austerity.

Angela told Socialist Worker, "There are no tough choices or hard decisions for TUSC. We are 100 percent against austerity—there is no need for any cuts. We don't need to reduce the deficit."

"We should tax the rich to fund our public services."

## On other pages...

Trouble in Tayside—the SNP's record in Dundee >>Page 10&11

## GLASGOW

# Workers' confidence grows on fourth week of strike as solidarity pours in

**AN ALL-OUT strike by Glasgow City Council workers has entered its fourth week.**

The homelessness caseworkers walked out on 31 March demanding to be paid the same as other social care workers doing a similar job.

The 70 Unison union members are all actively involved in the dispute with daily picketing and regular protests outside the Labour-run city council headquarters.

Unison union rep Stuart told Socialist Worker, "We're all growing in confidence and the longer we're out the stronger



**Striking Glasgow social workers and Dundee porters at the STUC**

our resolve becomes.

"The support we're getting is amazing and is helping keep us going."

At the Scottish Trade Union Congress (STUC) this week they received a standing ovation and pledges of support.

## Angry

Stuart said, "There were a lot of angry activists discussing what the political alternative is—and they're excited by the action we're taking."

And the strikers are also getting out around Britain to spread the story of their dispute—and receiving great solidarity.

They spoke to workers at Unison health conference in Liverpool and local council workers in London last week. They raised hundreds of pounds in donations.

Collections among council social work department workplaces raised over £2,000. And football fans at matches in the city last weekend donated over £1,300.

Talks are set for Friday this week after a Labour councillor requested to meet the strikers.

Stuart said, "We hope this is the beginning of the council coming to its senses."

Bosses are certainly

under pressure.

Stuart appealed for solidarity. "Help us win," he said. "We are seeing attacks on working class people and on workers' rights. If we don't fight back now these services won't exist anymore."

A victory in Glasgow will be a victory for everyone resisting austerity.

Send solidarity messages and requests for speakers to enquiries@glasgowcityunison.co.uk

Donate to the strike fund. Cheques to "Glasgow City Unison Branch", 84 Bell St, Glasgow G1 1LQ. Bank transfer: Sort Code 08-60-01, Account Number 20275792, Account Name "Industrial Action"